MANUAL/2009-2013
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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HISTORY
CONSTITUTION
GOVERNMENT
RITUAL

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FOREWORD

"The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to make Christlike disciples in the nations."

"The primary objective of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God's kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures."

"The critical objectives of the Church of the Nazarene are 'holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.'" (25)

The Church of the Nazarene exists to serve as an instrument for advancing the kingdom of God through the preaching and teaching of the gospel throughout the world. Our well-defined commission is to preserve and propagate Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures, through the conversion of sinners, the reclamation of backsliders, and the entire sanctification of believers.

Our objective is a spiritual one, namely, to evangelize as a response to the Great Commission of our Lord to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19; cf. John 20:21; Mark 16:15). We believe that this aim can be realized through agreed-upon policies and procedures, including doctrinal tenets of faith and time-tested standards of morality and lifestyle.

This 2009-2013 edition of the *Manual* includes a brief historical statement of the church; the church Constitution, which defines our *Articles of Faith*, our understanding of the church, the Covenant of Christian Character for holy living, and principles of organization and government; the Covenant of Christian Conduct, which address key issues of contemporary society; and policies of church government dealing with the local, district, and general church organization.

The General Assembly is the supreme doctrine-formulating and lawmaking body of the Church of the Nazarene. This *Manual* contains the decisions and judgments of minis-

terial and lay delegates of the Twenty-seventh General Assembly, which met in Orlando, Florida, U.S.A., June 28-July 2, 2009, and is therefore authoritative as a guide for action. Because it is the official statement of the faith and practice of the church and is consistent with the teachings of the Scriptures, we expect our people everywhere to accept the tenets of doctrine and the guides and helps to holy living contained in it. To fail to do so, after formally taking the membership vows of the Church of the Nazarene, injures the witness of the church, violates her conscience, and dissipates the fellowship of the people called Nazarenes.

The government of the Church of the Nazarene is distinctive. In polity it is representative—neither purely episcopal nor wholly congregational. Because the laity and the ministry have equal authority in the deliberative and lawmaking units of the church, there is a desirable and effective balance of power. We see this not only as an opportunity for participation and service in the church but also as an obligation on the part of both laity and ministry.

Commitment and clear purpose are important. But an intelligent and informed people following commonly agreed-upon practices and procedures advance the Kingdom faster and enhance their witness for Christ. Therefore, it is incumbent upon our members to acquaint themselves with this *Manual*—the history of the church and the doctrines and ethical practices of the ideal Nazarene. Adherence to the injunctions of these pages will nurture loyalty and faithfulness both to God and the church and will increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our spiritual efforts.

With the Bible as our supreme Guide, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, and the *Manual* as our official agreed-upon statement of faith, practice, and polity, we look forward to the new quadrennium with joy and unswerving faith in Jesus Christ.

The Board of General Superintendents

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CONTENTS

PART V

MINISTRY AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE

PART VI
JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

PART VII
RITUAL

PART VIII
BYLAWS/CHARTER/CONSTITUTION NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL (NMI), NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL (NYI), AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL (SDMI)

PART IX
FORMS

PART X
APPENDIX

PART I

Historical Statement

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

Historic Christianity and the Wesleyan-Holiness Heritage

One Holy Faith. The Church of the Nazarene, from its beginnings, has confessed itself to be a branch of the "one, holy, universal, and apostolic" church and has sought to be faithful to it. It confesses as its own the history of the people of God recorded in the Old and New Testaments, and that same history as it has extended from the days of the apostles to our own. As its own people, it embraces the people of God through the ages, those redeemed through Jesus Christ in whatever expression of the one church they may be found. It receives the ecumenical creeds of the first five Christian centuries as expressions of its own faith. While the Church of the Nazarene has responded to its special calling to proclaim the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification, it has taken care to retain and nurture identification with the historic church in its preaching of the Word, its administration of the sacraments, its concern to raise up and maintain a ministry that is truly apostolic in faith and practice, and its inculcating of disciplines for Christlike living and service to others.

The Wesleyan Revival. This Christian faith has been mediated to Nazarenes through historical religious currents and particularly through the Wesleyan revival of the 18th century. In the 1730s the broader Evangelical Revival arose in Britain, directed chiefly by John Wesley, his brother Charles, and George Whitefield, clergymen in the Church of England. Through their instrumentality, many other men and women turned from sin and were empowered for the service of God. This movement was characterized by lay preaching, testimony, discipline, and circles of earnest disciples known as "societies," "classes," and "bands." As a movement of spiritual life,

its antecedents included German Pietism, typified by Philip Jacob Spener; 17th-century English Puritanism; and a spiritual awakening in New England described by the pastor-theologian Jonathan Edwards.

The Wesleyan phase of the great revival was characterized by three theological landmarks: regeneration by grace through faith; Christian perfection, or sanctification, likewise by grace through faith; and the witness of the Spirit to the assurance of grace. Among John Wesley's distinctive contributions was an emphasis on entire sanctification in this life as God's gracious provision for the Christian. British Methodism's early missionary enterprises began disseminating these theological emphases worldwide. In North America, the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1784. Its stated purpose was "to reform the Continent, and to spread scriptural Holiness over these Lands."

The Holiness Movement of the 19th Century. In the 19th century a renewed emphasis on Christian holiness began in the Eastern United States and spread throughout the nation. Timothy Merritt, Methodist clergyman and founding editor of the *Guide to Christian Perfection*, was among the leaders of the holiness revival. The central figure of the movement was Phoebe Palmer of New York City, leader of the Tuesday Meeting for the Promotion of Holiness, at which Methodist bishops, educators, and other clergy joined the original group of women in seeking holiness. During four decades, Mrs. Palmer promoted the Methodist phase of the holiness movement through public speaking, writing, and as editor of the influential *Guide to Holiness*.

The holiness revival spilled outside the bounds of Methodism. Charles G. Finney and Asa Mahan, both of Oberlin College, led the renewed emphasis on holiness in Presbyterian and Congregationalist circles, as did revivalist William Boardman. Baptist evangelist A. B. Earle was among the leaders of the holiness movement within his denomination. Hannah Whitall Smith, a Quaker and popular holiness revivalist, published *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* (1875), a classic text in Christian spirituality.

In 1867 Methodist ministers John A. Wood, John Inskip, and others began at Vineland, New Jersey, the first of a long series of national camp meetings. They also organized at that time the National Camp Meeting Association for the Promotion of Holiness, commonly known as the National Holiness Association (now the Christian Holiness Partnership). Until the early years of the 20th century, this organization sponsored holiness camp meetings throughout the United States. Local and regional holiness associations also appeared, and a vital holiness press published many periodicals and books.

The witness to Christian holiness played roles of varying significance in the founding of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1843), the Free Methodist Church (1860), and, in England, the Salvation Army (1865). In the 1880s new distinctively holiness churches sprang into existence, including the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) and the Church of God (Holiness). Several older religious traditions were also influenced by the holiness movement, including certain groups of Mennonites, Brethren, and Friends that adopted the Wesleyan-holiness view of entire sanctification. The Brethren in Christ Church and the Evangelical Friends Alliance are examples of this blending of spiritual traditions.

Uniting of Holiness Groups

In the 1890s a new wave of independent holiness entities came into being. These included independent churches, urban missions, rescue homes, and missionary and evangelistic associations. Some of the people involved in these organizations yearned for union into a national holiness church. Out of that impulse the present-day Church of the Nazarene was born.

The Association of Pentecostal Churches of America. On July 21, 1887, the People's Evangelical Church was organized with 51 members at Providence, Rhode Island, with Fred A. Hillery as pastor. The following year the Mission Church at Lynn, Massachusetts, was organized with C. Howard Davis as pastor. On March 13 and 14, 1890, repre-

sentatives from these and other independent holiness congregations met at Rock, Massachusetts, and organized the Central Evangelical Holiness Association with churches in Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. In 1892, the Central Evangelical Holiness Association ordained Anna S. Hanscombe, believed to be the first of many women ordained to the Christian ministry in the parent bodies of the Church of the Nazarene.

In January 1894, businessman William Howard Hoople founded a Brooklyn mission, reorganized the following May as Utica Avenue Pentecostal Tabernacle. By the end of the following year, Bedford Avenue Pentecostal Church and Emmanuel Pentecostal Tabernacle were also organized. In December 1895, delegates from these three congregations adopted a constitution, a summary of doctrines, and bylaws, forming the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.

On November 12, 1896, a joint committee of the Central Evangelical Holiness Association and the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America met in Brooklyn and framed a plan of union, retaining the name of the latter for the united body. Prominent workers in this denomination were Hiram F. Reynolds, H. B. Hosley, C. Howard Davis, William Howard Hoople, and, later, E. E. Angell. Some of these were originally lay preachers who were later ordained as ministers by their congregations. This church was decidedly missionary, and under the leadership of Hiram F. Reynolds, missionary secretary, embarked upon an ambitious program of Christian witness to the Cape Verde Islands, India, and other places. *The Beulah Christian* was published as its official paper.

The Holiness Church of Christ. In July 1894, R. L. Harris organized the New Testament Church of Christ at Milan, Tennessee, shortly before his death. Mary Lee Cagle, widow of R. L. Harris, continued the work and became its most prominent early leader. This church, strictly congregational in polity, spread throughout Arkansas and western Texas, with scattered congregations in Alabama and Missouri. Mary Cagle and a coworker, Mrs. E. J. Sheeks, were ordained in 1899 in the first class of ordinands.

Beginning in 1888, a handful of congregations bearing the name The Holiness Church were organized in Texas by ministers Thomas and Dennis Rogers, who came from California.

In 1901 the first congregation of the Independent Holiness Church was formed at Van Alstyne, Texas, by Charles B. Jernigan. At an early date, James B. Chapman affiliated with this denomination, which prospered and grew rapidly. In time, the congregations led by Dennis Rogers affiliated with the Independent Holiness Church.

In November 1904, representatives of the New Testament Church of Christ and the Independent Holiness Church met at Rising Star, Texas, where they agreed upon principles of union, adopted a *Manual*, and chose the name Holiness Church of Christ. This union was finalized the following year at a delegated general council held at Pilot Point, Texas. The *Holiness Evangel* was the church's official paper. Its other leading ministers included William E. Fisher, J. D. Scott, and J. T. Upchurch. Among its key lay leaders were Edwin H. Sheeks, R. B. Mitchum, and Mrs. Donie Mitchum.

Several leaders of this church were active in the Holiness Association of Texas, a vital interdenominational body that sponsored a college at Peniel, near Greenville, Texas. The association also sponsored the *Pentecostal Advocate*, the Southwest's leading holiness paper, which became a Nazarene organ in 1910. E. C. DeJernett, a minister, and C. A. McConnell, a layman, were prominent workers in this organization.

The Church of the Nazarene. In October 1895, Phineas F. Bresee, D.D., and Joseph P. Widney, M.D., with about 100 others, including Alice P. Baldwin, Leslie F. Gay, W. S. and Lucy P. Knott, C. E. McKee, and members of the Bresee and Widney families, organized the Church of the Nazarene at Los Angeles. At the outset they saw this church as the first of a denomination that preached the reality of entire sanctification received through faith in Christ. They held that Christians sanctified by faith should follow Christ's example and preach the Gospel to the poor. They felt called especially to this work. They believed that unnecessary elegance and adornment of houses of worship did not represent the spirit of Christ but the spirit of the world, and that their expendi-

tures of time and money should be given to Christlike ministries for the salvation of souls and the relief of the needy. They organized the church accordingly. They adopted general rules, a statement of belief, a polity based on a limited superintendency, procedures for the consecration of deaconesses and the ordination of elders, and a ritual. These were published as a *Manual* beginning in 1898. They published a paper known as *The Nazarene* and then *The Nazarene Messenger*. The Church of the Nazarene spread chiefly along the West Coast, with scattered congregations east of the Rocky Mountains as far as Illinois.

Among the ministers who cast their lot with the new church were H. D. Brown, W. E. Shepard, C. W. Ruth, L. B. Kent, Isaiah Reid, J. B. Creighton, C. E. Cornell, Robert Pierce, and W. C. Wilson. Among the first to be ordained by the new church were Joseph P. Widney himself, Elsie and DeLance Wallace, Lucy P. Knott, and E. A. Girvin.

Phineas F. Bresee's 38 years' experience as a pastor, superintendent, editor, college board member, and camp meeting preacher in Methodism, and his unique personal magnetism, entered into the ecclesiastical statesmanship that he brought to the merging of the several holiness churches into a national body.

The Year of Uniting: 1907-1908. The Association of Pentecostal Churches of America, the Church of the Nazarene, and the Holiness Church of Christ were brought into association with one another by C. W. Ruth, assistant general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene, who had extensive friendships throughout the Wesleyan-holiness movement. Delegates of the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America and the Church of the Nazarene convened in general assembly at Chicago, from October 10 to 17, 1907. The merging groups agreed upon a church government that balanced the need for a superintendency with the independence of local congregations. Superintendents were to foster and care for churches already established and were to organize and encourage the organizing of churches everywhere, but their authority was not to interfere with the independent actions of a fully organized church. Further, the General

Assembly adopted a name for the united body drawn from both organizations: The Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. Phineas F. Bresee and Hiram F. Reynolds were elected general superintendents. A delegation of observers from the Holiness Church of Christ was present and participated in the assembly work.

During the following year, two other accessions occurred. In April 1908 P. F. Bresee organized a congregation of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene at Peniel, Texas, which brought into the church leading figures in the Holiness Association of Texas and paved the way for other members to join. In September, the Pennsylvania Conference of the Holiness Christian Church, after receiving a release from its General Conference, dissolved itself and under the leadership of H. G. Trumbaur united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

The second General Assembly of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene met in a joint session with the General Council of the Holiness Church of Christ from October 8 to 14, 1908, at Pilot Point, Texas. The year of uniting ended on Tuesday morning, October 13, when R. B. Mitchum moved and C. W. Ruth seconded the proposition: "That the union of the two churches be now consummated." Several spoke favorably on the motion. Phineas Bresee had exerted continual effort toward this proposed outcome. At 10:40 A.M., amid great enthusiasm, the motion to unite was adopted by a unanimous rising vote.

Denominational Change of Name. The General Assembly of 1919, in response to memorials from 35 district assemblies, officially changed the name of the organization to Church of the Nazarene because of new meanings that had become associated with the term "Pentecostal."

Later Accessions

After 1908 various other bodies united with the Church of the Nazarene:

The Pentecostal Mission. In 1898 J. O. McClurkan, a Cumberland Presbyterian evangelist, led in forming the Pente-

costal Alliance at Nashville, which brought together holiness people from Tennessee and adjacent states. This body was very missionary in spirit and sent pastors and teachers to Cuba, Guatemala, India, and Mexico. McClurkan died in 1914. The next year his group, known then as the Pentecostal Mission, united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

Pentecostal Church of Scotland. In 1906 George Sharpe, of Parkhead Congregational Church, Glasgow, was evicted from his pulpit for preaching the Wesleyan doctrine of Christian holiness. Eighty members who left with him immediately formed Parkhead Pentecostal Church. Other congregations were organized, and in 1909 the Pentecostal Church of Scotland was formed. That body united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene in November 1915.

Laymen's Holiness Association. The Laymen's Holiness Association was formed under S. A. Danford in 1917 at Jamestown, North Dakota, to serve the cause of Wesleyan-holiness revivalism in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana. This group published a paper, *The Holiness Layman*. J. G. Morrison was elected president in 1919 and led an organization with over 25 other evangelists and workers. In 1922 Morrison, together with most of the workers and more than 1,000 of the members, united with the Church of the Nazarene.

Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association. This missionary body, centered in Tabor, Iowa, organized in 1893 by Elder George Weavers, subsequently sent over 80 workers to more than a half dozen countries. Around 1950 the work at Tabor, the South African mission, and other parts of the organization united with the Church of the Nazarene.

International Holiness Mission. David Thomas, businessman and lay preacher, founded The Holiness Mission in London in 1907. Extensive missionary work developed in southern Africa under the leadership of David Jones, and the church was renamed the International Holiness Mission in 1917. It united with the Church of the Nazarene on October 29, 1952, with 28 churches and more than 1,000 constituents in England under the superintendency of J. B. Maclagan, and work led by 36 missionaries in Africa.

Calvary Holiness Church. In 1934 Maynard James and Jack Ford, who had led itinerant evangelism (or "trekking") in the International Holiness Mission, formed the Calvary Holiness Church. On June 11, 1955, union took place with the Church of the Nazarene, bringing about 22 churches and more than 600 members into the denomination. The accession of the International Holiness Mission and the Calvary Holiness Church came about largely through the vision and efforts of Nazarene District Superintendent George Frame.

Gospel Workers Church of Canada. Organized by Frank Goff in Ontario in 1918, this church arose from an earlier group called the Holiness Workers. It united with the Church of the Nazarene on September 7, 1958, adding five churches and about 200 members to the Canada Central District.

Church of the Nazarene (Nigeria). In the 1940s a Wesleyan-holiness church was organized in Nigeria under indigenous leadership. It adopted the name Church of the Nazarene, deriving its doctrinal beliefs and name in part from a *Manual* of the International Church of the Nazarene. Under the leadership of Jeremiah U. Ekaidem, it united with the latter on April 3, 1988. A new district with 39 churches and 6,500 members was created.

Toward a Global Church

The Church of the Nazarene had an international dimension from its beginning. By the uniting assembly of 1908, Nazarenes served and witnessed not only in the United States and Canada, but also as missionaries in the Cape Verde Islands, India, Japan, Mexico, and South Africa—living testimony to the impact of the 19th-century missions movement upon the religious bodies that formed the present-day Church of the Nazarene.

Expansion into new areas of the world began in Asia in 1898 by the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America. The Pentecostal Mission was at work in Central America by 1900, in the Caribbean by 1902, and in South America by 1909. In Africa, Nazarenes active there in 1907 were recognized as denominational missionaries at a later date.

Subsequent extension into the Australia-South Pacific area began in 1945 and into continental Europe in 1948. In these instances, the Church of the Nazarene entered by identifying with local ministers who already preached and taught the Wesleyan-holiness message: A. A. E. Berg of Australia and Alfredo del Rosso of Italy.

In developing a global ministry, the Church of the Nazarene has depended historically on the energies of national workers who have shared with missionaries the tasks of preaching and teaching the word of grace. In 1918 a missionary in India noted that his national associates included three preachers, four teachers, three colporteurs, and five Bible women. By 1936 the ratio of national workers to missionaries throughout the worldwide Church of the Nazarene was greater than five to one.

The global areas where the church has entered reached a total of 155 by 2009. Thousands of ministers and lay workers have indigenized the Church of the Nazarene in their respective cultures, thereby contributing to the mosaic of national identities that form our international communion.

Distinctives of International Ministry. Historically, Nazarene global ministry has centered around evangelism, compassionate ministry, and education. The evangelistic impulse was exemplified in the lives of H. F. Schmelzenbach, L. S. Tracy, Esther Carson Winans, Samuel Krikorian, and others whose names symbolize this dimension of ministry. Around the world, Nazarene churches and districts continue to reflect a revivalistic and evangelistic character.

The international roots of Nazarene compassionate ministry lie in early support for famine relief and orphanage work in India. This impulse was strengthened by the Nazarene Medical Missionary Union, organized in the early 1920s to build Bresee Memorial Hospital in Tamingfu, China. An extensive medical work has developed in Swaziland, and other compassionate ministries have developed around the world.

Education is an aspect of world ministry exemplified early by Hope School for Girls, founded in Calcutta by Mrs. Sukhoda Banarji in 1905 and adopted the following year by

the Church of the Nazarene. Outside North America, Nazarenes have established schools for primary education and for specialized ministerial training.

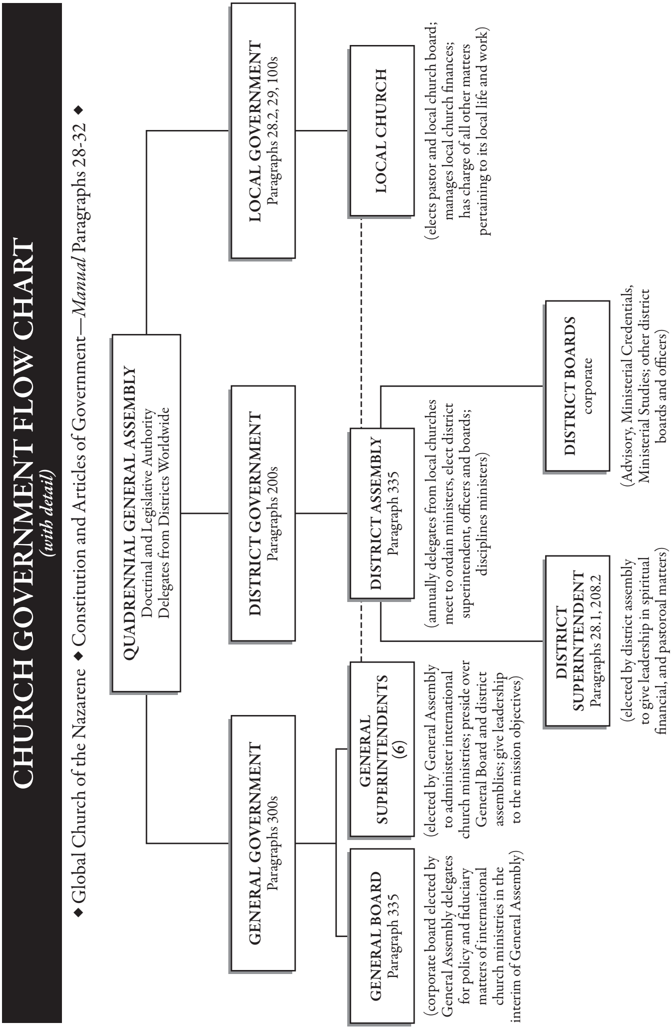
There are graduate seminaries and theological colleges in Australia, Costa Rica, England, the Philippines, and the United States; liberal arts institutions in Africa, Brazil, Canada, Korea, Trinidad, and the United States; one education college in Africa; three nursing schools in Africa, India, and Papua New Guinea; and thirty-two undergraduate Bible/theological institutions around the world.

The church has prospered as these components of its mission have developed. In 2009 the Church of the Nazarene had a global membership of 1,837,393 distributed in over 22,807 congregations (includes organized churches and other congregations).

As a result of this historical development, the denomination is poised today with an unfinished agenda of moving from "global presence" to a "global community" of faith. Recognition of this fact led the 1976 General Assembly to authorize a Commission on Internationalization, whose report to the 1980 General Assembly led to the creation of a system of world-region areas. The number and boundaries of the original world regions have since changed. The current ones are: the Africa Region, the Asia-Pacific Region, the Canada Region, the Caribbean Region, the Eurasia Region, the Mexico and Central America Region, the South America Region, and eight regions in the United States.*

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*A more complete history of the Church of the Nazarene may be found in Floyd Cunningham, ed., *Our Watchword and Song: The Centennial History of the Church of the Nazarene* (2009). Other sources include specialized histories by Timothy L. Smith, *Called unto Holiness, Vol. 1: The Formative Years* (1962); W. T. Purkiser, *Called unto Holiness, Vol. 2: The Second 25 Years* (1983); and J. Fred Parker, *Mission to the World* (1988).


CHURCH GOVERNMENT FLOW CHART
(with detail)
◆ Global Church of the Nazarene ◆ Constitution and Articles of Government—Manual Paragraphs 28-32 ◆
QUADRENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Doctrinal and Legislative Authority
Delegates from Districts Worldwide
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
Paragraphs 300s
DISTRICT GOVERNMENT
Paragraphs 200s
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Paragraphs 28.2, 29, 100s
GENERAL BOARD
Paragraph 335
(corporate board elected by General Assembly delegates for policy and fiduciary matters of international church ministries in the interim of General Assembly)
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS (6)
(elected by General Assembly to administer international church ministries; preside over General Board and district assemblies; give leadership to the mission objectives)
DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
Paragraph 335
(annually delegates from local churches meet to ordain ministers, elect district superintendent, officers and boards; disciplines ministers)
LOCAL CHURCH
(elects pastor and local church board; manages local church finances; has charge of all other matters pertaining to its local life and work)
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
Paragraphs 28.1, 208.2
(elected by district assembly to give leadership in spiritual financial, and pastoral matters)
DISTRICT BOARDS
corporate
(Advisory, Ministerial Credentials, Ministerial Studies; other district boards and officers)

PART II

Church Constitution

ARTICLES OF FAITH

THE CHURCH

ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

AMENDMENTS

PREAMBLE

In order that we may preserve our God-given heritage, the faith once delivered to the saints, especially the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification as a second work of grace, and also that we may cooperate effectually with other branches of the Church of Jesus Christ in advancing God's kingdom, we, the ministers and lay members of the Church of the Nazarene, in accordance with the principles of constitutional legislation established among us, do hereby ordain, adopt, and set forth as the fundamental law or Constitution of the Church of the Nazarene the *Articles of Faith*, the Covenant of Christian Character, and the Articles of Organization and Government here following, to wit:

ARTICLES OF FAITH[1]

I. The Triune God[2]

1. We believe in one eternally existent, infinite God, Sovereign *Creator and Sustainer* of the universe; that He only is God, [creative and administrative,] holy in nature, attributes, and purpose[;]. *The God who is holy love and light* [that He, as God,] is Triune in essential being, revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Genesis 1; Leviticus 19:2; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Isaiah 5:16; 6:1-7; 40:18-31; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 14:6-27; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 4:4-6; Ephesians 2:13-18; 1 John 1:5; 4:8)

II. Jesus Christ

2. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Triune Godhead; that He was eternally one with the Father; that He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born

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1. Scripture references are supportive of the Articles of Faith and were placed here by action of the 1976 General Assembly but are not to be considered part of the Constitutional text.

2. Constitutional changes adopted by the 2009 General Assembly are in the process of ratification by the district assemblies at the time of printing. Where changes are being made, words in italics are new words and words in brackets [ ] are words being deleted.

of the Virgin Mary, so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say the Godhead and manhood, are thus united in one Person very God and very man, the God-man.

We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and that He truly arose from the dead and took again His body, together with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith He ascended into heaven and is there engaged in intercession for us.

(Matthew 1:20-25; 16:15-16; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-18; Acts 2:22-36; Romans 8:3, 32-34; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:12-22; 1 Timothy 6:14-16; Hebrews 1:1-5; 7:22-28; 9:24-28; 1 John 1:1-3; 4:2-3, 15)

III. The Holy Spirit

3. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Triune Godhead, that He is ever present and efficiently active in and with the Church of Christ, convincing the world of sin, regenerating those who repent and believe, sanctifying believers, and guiding into all truth as it is in Jesus.

(John 7:39; 14:15-18, 26; 16:7-15; Acts 2:33; 15:8-9; Romans 8:1-27; Galatians 3:1-14; 4:6; Ephesians 3:14-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 3:24; 4:13)

IV. The Holy Scriptures

4. We believe in the plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, by which we understand the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, given by divine inspiration, inerrantly revealing the will of God concerning us in all things necessary to our salvation, so that whatever is not contained therein is not to be enjoined as an article of faith.

(Luke 24:44-47; John 10:35; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

V. Sin, Original and Personal

5. We believe that sin came into the world through the disobedience of our first parents, and death by sin. We believe that sin is of two kinds: original sin or depravity, and actual or personal sin.

5.1. We believe that original sin, or depravity, is that corruption of the nature of all the offspring of Adam by reason

of which everyone is very far gone from original righteousness or the pure state of our first parents at the time of their creation, is averse to God, is without spiritual life, and inclined to evil, and that continually. We further believe that original sin continues to exist with the new life of the regenerate, until the heart is fully cleansed by the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

5.2. We believe that original sin differs from actual sin in that it constitutes an inherited propensity to actual sin for which no one is accountable until its divinely provided remedy is neglected or rejected.

5.3. We believe that actual or personal sin is a voluntary violation of a known law of God by a morally responsible person. It is therefore not to be confused with involuntary and inescapable shortcomings, infirmities, faults, mistakes, failures, or other deviations from a standard of perfect conduct that are the residual effects of the Fall. However, such innocent effects do not include attitudes or responses contrary to the spirit of Christ, which may properly be called sins of the spirit. We believe that personal sin is primarily and essentially a violation of the law of love; and that in relation to Christ sin may be defined as unbelief.

(Original sin: Genesis 3; 6:5; Job 15:14; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Mark 7:21-23; Romans 1:18-25; 5:12-14; 7:1-8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Galatians 5:16-25; 1 John 1:7-8

Personal sin: Matthew 22:36-40 {with 1 John 3:4}; John 8:34-36; 16:8-9; Romans 3:23; 6:15-23; 8:18-24; 14:23; 1 John 1:9-2:4; 3:7-10)

VI. Atonement[3]

6. We believe that Jesus Christ, by His sufferings, by the shedding of His own blood, and by His death on the Cross, made a full atonement for all human sin, and that this Atonement is the only ground of salvation, and that it is suf-

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ficient for every individual of Adam's race. The Atonement is graciously efficacious for the salvation of [the irresponsible] *those incapable of moral responsibility* and for the children in innocency but is efficacious for the salvation of those who reach the age of responsibility only when they repent and believe.

(Isaiah 53:5-6, 11; Mark 10:45; Luke 24:46-48; John 1:29; 3:14-17; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 3:21-26; 4:17-25; 5:6-21; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Galatians 1:3-4; 3:13-14; Colossians 1:19-23; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:9; 9:11-14; 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18-21; 2:19-25; 1 John 2:1-2)

VII. Prevenient Grace

7. We believe that the human race's creation in Godlikeness included ability to choose between right and wrong, and that thus human beings were made morally responsible; that through the fall of Adam they became depraved so that they cannot now turn and prepare themselves by their own natural strength and works to faith and calling upon God. But we also believe that the grace of God through Jesus Christ is freely bestowed upon all people, enabling all who will to turn from sin to righteousness, believe on Jesus Christ for pardon and cleansing from sin, and follow good works pleasing and acceptable in His sight.

We believe that all persons, though in the possession of the experience of regeneration and entire sanctification, may fall from grace and apostatize and, unless they repent of their sins, be hopelessly and eternally lost.

(Godlikeness and moral responsibility: Genesis 1:26-27; 2:16-17; Deuteronomy 28:1-2; 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 8:3-5; Isaiah 1:8-10; Jeremiah 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18:1-4; Micah 6:8; Romans 1:19-20; 2:1-16; 14:7-12; Galatians 6:7-8

Natural inability: Job 14:4; 15:14; Psalms 14:1-4; 51:5; John 3:6*a;* Romans 3:10-12; 5:12-14, 20*a;* 7:14-25

Free grace and works of faith: Ezekiel 18:25-26; John 1:12-13; 3:6*b;* Acts 5:31; Romans 5:6-8, 18; 6:15-16, 23; 10:6-8; 11:22; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; 10:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:21-23; 2 Timothy 4:10*a;* Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 3:12-15; 6:4-6; 10:26-31; James 2:18-22; 2 Peter 1:10-11; 2:20-22)

VIII. Repentance

8. We believe that repentance, which is a sincere and thorough change of the mind in regard to sin, involving a sense of personal guilt and a voluntary turning away from sin, is demanded of all who have by act or purpose become sinners against God. The Spirit of God gives to all who will repent the gracious help of penitence of heart and hope of mercy, that they may believe unto pardon and spiritual life.

(2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalms 32:5-6; 51:1-17; Isaiah 55:6-7; Jeremiah 3:12-14; Ezekiel 18:30-32; 33:14-16; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 3:1-14; 13:1-5; 18:9-14; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30-31; 26:16-18; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:8-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 3:9)

IX. Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption

9. We believe that justification is the gracious and judicial act of God by which He grants full pardon of all guilt and complete release from the penalty of sins committed, and acceptance as righteous, to all who believe on Jesus Christ and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

10. We believe that regeneration, or the new birth, is that gracious work of God whereby the moral nature of the repentant believer is spiritually quickened and given a distinctively spiritual life, capable of faith, love, and obedience.

11. We believe that adoption is that gracious act of God by which the justified and regenerated believer is constituted a son of God.

12. We believe that justification, regeneration, and adoption are simultaneous in the experience of seekers after God and are obtained upon the condition of faith, preceded by repentance; and that to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.

(Luke 18:14; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; 5:24; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17; 3:21-26, 28; 4:5-9, 17-25; 5:1, 16-19; 6:4; 7:6; 8:1, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 2:16-21; 3:1-14, 26; 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:6-7; 2:1, 4-5; Philippians 3:3-9; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 1:9; 3:1-2, 9; 4:7; 5:1, 9-13, 18)

X. *Christian Holiness and* Entire Sanctification[4]

13. We believe that [entire] sanctification is [that] *the* [act] *work* of God[, subsequent to regeneration, by] which *transforms* believers *into the likeness of Christ. It is wrought by God's grace through the Holy Spirit in initial sanctification, or regeneration (simultaneous with justification), entire sanctification, and the continued perfecting work of the Holy Spirit culminating in glorification. In glorification we are fully conformed to the image of the Son.*

We believe that entire sanctification is that act of God, subsequent to regeneration, by which believers are made free from original sin, or depravity, and brought into a state of entire devotement to God, and the holy obedience of love made perfect.

It is wrought by the baptism with *or infilling of* the Holy Spirit, and comprehends in one experience the cleansing of the heart from sin and the abiding, indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, empowering the believer for life and service.

Entire sanctification is provided by the blood of Jesus, is wrought instantaneously by *grace through* faith, preceded by entire consecration; and to this work and state of grace the Holy Spirit bears witness.

This experience is also known by various terms representing its different phases, such as "Christian perfection," "perfect love," "heart purity," "the baptism with *or infilling of* the Holy Spirit," "the fullness of the blessing," and "Christian holiness."

14. We believe that there is a marked distinction between a pure heart and a mature character. The former is obtained in an instant, the result of entire sanctification; the latter is the result of growth in grace.

We believe that the grace of entire sanctification includes the *divine* impulse to grow in grace *as a Christlike disciple*. However, this impulse must be consciously nurtured, and

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careful attention given to the requisites and processes of spiritual development and improvement in Christlikeness of character and personality. Without such purposeful endeavor, one's witness may be impaired and the grace itself frustrated and ultimately lost.

Participating in the means of grace, especially the fellowship, disciplines, and sacraments of the Church, believers grow in grace and in wholehearted love to God and neighbor.

(Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:16-17; John 7:37-39; 14:15-23; 17:6-20; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 15:8-9; Romans 6:11-13, 19; 8:1-4, 8-14; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Galatians 2:20; 5:16-25; Ephesians 3:14-21; 5:17-18, 25-27; Philippians 3:10-15; Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 4:9-11; 10:10-17; 12:1-2; 13:12; 1 John 1:7, 9)

("Christian perfection," "perfect love": Deuteronomy 30:6; Matthew 5:43-48; 22:37-40; Romans 12:9-21; 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 13; Philippians 3:10-15; Hebrews 6:1; 1 John 4:17-18

"Heart purity": Matthew 5:8; Acts 15:8-9; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:3

"Baptism with *or infilling of* the Holy Spirit": Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:16-17; Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 15:8-9

"Fullness of the blessing": Romans 15:29

"Christian holiness": Matthew 5:1-7:29; John 15:1-11; Romans 12:1-15:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:17-5:20; Philippians 1:9-11; 3:12-15; Colossians 2:20-3:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 4:7-8; 5:23; 2 Timothy 2:19-22; Hebrews 10:19-25; 12:14; 13:20-21; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 1:1-11; 3:18; Jude 20-21)

XI. The Church[5]

15. We believe in the Church, the community that confesses Jesus Christ as Lord, the covenant people of God made new in Christ, the Body of Christ called together by the Holy Spirit through the Word.

God calls the Church to express its life in the unity and fellowship of the Spirit; in worship through the preaching of the Word, observance of the sacraments, and ministry in His

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name; by obedience to Christ, *holy living,* and mutual accountability.

The mission of the Church in the world is to [continue] *share in* the redemptive *and reconciling ministry* [work] of Christ in the power of the Spirit [through holy living, evangelism, discipleship, and service]. *The Church fulfills its mission by making disciples through evangelism, education, showing compassion, working for justice, and bearing witness to the kingdom of God.*

The Church is a historical reality, which organizes itself in culturally conditioned forms; exists both as local congregations and as a universal body; sets apart persons called of God for specific ministries. God calls the Church to live under His rule in anticipation of the consummation at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Exodus 19:3; Jeremiah 31:33; Matthew 8:11; 10:7; 16:13-19, 24; 18:15-20; 28:19-20; John 17:14-26; 20:21-23; Acts 1:7-8; 2:32-47; 6:1-2; 13:1; 14:23; Romans 2:28-29; 4:16; 10:9-15; 11:13-32; 12:1-8; 15:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 7:17; 11:1, 17-33; 12:3, 12-31; 14:26-40; 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:1; Galatians 5:6, 13-14; 6:1-5, 15; Ephesians 4:1-17; 5:25-27; Philippians 2:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:19-25; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 13; 2:4-12, 21; 4:1-2, 10-11; 1 John 4:17; Jude 24; Revelation 5:9-10)

XII. Baptism

16. We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness.

Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training.

Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.

(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

XIII. The Lord's Supper

17. We believe that the Memorial and Communion Supper instituted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is essentially a New Testament sacrament, declarative of His sacrificial death, through the merits of which believers have life and salvation and promise of all spiritual blessings in Christ. It is distinctively for those who are prepared for reverent appreciation of its significance, and by it they show forth the Lord's death till He come again. It being the Communion feast, only those who have faith in Christ and love for the saints should be called to participate therein.

(Exodus 12:1-14; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; John 6:28-58; 1 Corinthians 10:14-21; 11:23-32)

XIV. Divine Healing

18. We believe in the Bible doctrine of divine healing and urge our people to seek to offer the prayer of faith for the healing of the sick. We also believe God heals through the means of medical science.

(2 Kings 5:1-19; Psalm 103:1-5; Matthew 4:23-24; 9:18-35; John 4:46-54; Acts 5:12-16; 9:32-42; 14:8-15; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 5:13-16)

XV. Second Coming of Christ

19. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will come again; that we who are alive at His coming shall not precede them that are asleep in Christ Jesus; but that, if we are abiding in Him, we shall be caught up with the risen saints to meet the Lord in the air, so that we shall ever be with the Lord.

(Matthew 25:31-46; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 9:26-28; 2 Peter 3:3-15; Revelation 1:7-8; 22:7-20)

XVI. Resurrection, Judgment, and Destiny

20. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, that the bodies both of the just and of the unjust shall be raised to life and united with their spirits—"they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

21. We believe in future judgment in which every person shall appear before God to be judged according to his or her deeds in this life.

22. We believe that glorious and everlasting life is assured to all who savingly believe in, and obediently follow, Jesus Christ our Lord; and that the finally impenitent shall suffer eternally in hell.

(Genesis 18:25; 1 Samuel 2:10; Psalm 50:6; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31; 20:27-38; John 3:16-18; 5:25-29; 11:21-27; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:1-16; 14:7-12; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20:11-15; 22:1-15)

THE CHURCH

I. The General Church

23. The Church of God is composed of all spiritually regenerate persons, whose names are written in heaven.

II. The Churches Severally

24. The churches severally are to be composed of such regenerate persons as by providential permission, and by the leadings of the Holy Spirit, become associated together for holy fellowship and ministries.

III. The Church of the Nazarene

25. The Church of the Nazarene is composed of those persons who have voluntarily associated themselves together according to the doctrines and polity of said church, and who seek holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature.

IV. Agreed Statement of Belief

26. Recognizing that the right and privilege of persons to church membership rest upon the fact of their being regenerate, we would require only such avowals of belief as are essential to Christian experience. We, therefore, deem belief in the following brief statements to be sufficient. We believe:

26.1. In one God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

26.2. That the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.

26.3. That man is born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually.

26.4. That the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

26.5. That the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.

26.6. That believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

26.7. That the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.

26.8. That our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.

V. The Covenant of Christian Character

27. To be identified with the visible Church is the blessed privilege and sacred duty of all who are saved from their sins and are seeking completeness in Christ Jesus. It is required of all who desire to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, and thus to walk in fellowship with us, that they shall show evidence of salvation from their sins by a godly walk and vital piety; and that they shall be, or earnestly desire to be, cleansed from all indwelling sin. They shall evidence their commitment to God—

27.1. FIRST. By doing that which is enjoined in the Word of God, which is our rule of both faith and practice, including:

(1) Loving God with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength, and one's neighbor as oneself (Exodus 20:3-6; Leviticus 19:17-18; Deuteronomy 5:7-10; 6:4-5; Mark 12:28-31; Romans 13:8-10).

(2) Pressing upon the attention of the unsaved the claims of the gospel, inviting them to the house of the Lord, and trying to compass their salvation (Mat-

thew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:14-16; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

(3) Being courteous to all men (Ephesians 4:32; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 3:18).

(4) Being helpful to those who are also of the faith, in love forbearing one another (Romans 12:13; Galatians 6:2, 10; Colossians 3:12-14).

(5) Seeking to do good to the bodies and souls of men; feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and ministering to the needy, as opportunity and ability are given (Matthew 25:35-36; 2 Corinthians 9:8-10; Galatians 2:10; James 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17-18).

(6) Contributing to the support of the ministry and the church and its work in tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 9:14; 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Philippians 4:15-19).

(7) Attending faithfully all the ordinances of God, and the means of grace, including the public worship of God (Hebrews 10:25), the ministry of the Word (Acts 2:42), the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-30); searching the Scriptures and meditating thereon (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-16); family and private devotions (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Matthew 6:6).

27.2. SECOND. By avoiding evil of every kind, including:

(1) Taking the name of God in vain (Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 19:12; James 5:12).

(2) Profaning of the Lord's Day by participation in unnecessary secular activities, thereby indulging in practices that deny its sanctity (Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58:13-14; Mark 2:27-28; Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10).

(3) Sexual immorality, such as premarital or extramarital relations, perversion in any form, or looseness and impropriety of conduct (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7).

(4) Habits or practices known to be destructive of physical and mental well-being. Christians are to regard themselves as temples of the Holy Spirit (Proverbs 20:1; 23:1-3; 1 Corinthians 6:17-20; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:18).

(5) Quarreling, returning evil for evil, gossiping, slandering, spreading surmises injurious to the good names of others (2 Corinthians 12:20; Galatians 5:15; Ephesians 4:30-32; James 3:5-18; 1 Peter 3:9-10).

(6) Dishonesty, taking advantage in buying and selling, bearing false witness, and like works of darkness (Leviticus 19:10-11; Romans 12:17; 1 Corinthians 6:7-10).

(7) The indulging of pride in dress or behavior. Our people are to dress with the Christian simplicity and modesty that become holiness (Proverbs 29:23; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; James 4:6; 1 Peter 3:3-4; 1 John 2:15-17).

(8) Music, literature, and entertainments that dishonor God (1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; James 4:4).

27.3. THIRD. By abiding in hearty fellowship with the church, not inveighing against but wholly committed to its doctrines and usages and actively involved in its continuing witness and outreach (Ephesians 2:18-22; 4:1-3, 11-16; Philippians 2:1-8; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

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ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

Article I. Form of Government

28. The Church of the Nazarene has a representative form of government.

28.1. We are agreed on the necessity of a superintendency that shall complement and assist the local church in the fulfilling of its mission and objectives. The superintendency shall build morale, provide motivation, supply management and method assistance, and organize and encourage organization of new churches and missions everywhere.

28.2. We are agreed that authority given to superintendents shall not interfere with the independent action of a fully organized church. Each church shall enjoy the right to select its own pastor, subject to such approval as the General Assembly shall find wise to institute. Each church shall also

elect delegates to the various assemblies, manage its own finances, and have charge of all other matters pertaining to its local life and work.

Article II. Local Churches

29. The membership of a local church shall consist of all who have been organized as a church by those authorized so to do and who have been publicly received by those having proper authority, after having declared their experience of salvation, their belief in our doctrines, and their willingness to submit to our government. (100-107)

Article III. District Assemblies

30. The General Assembly shall organize the membership of the church into district assemblies, giving such lay and ministerial representation therein as the General Assembly may deem fair and just, and shall determine qualifications of such representatives, provided, however, that all assigned ordained ministers shall be members thereof. The General Assembly shall also fix the boundaries of assembly districts, and define the powers and duties of district assemblies. (200-5.6)

Article IV. The General Assembly

31.1. How Composed. The General Assembly shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates in equal numbers, elected thereto by district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene; such ex-officio members as the General Assembly shall from time to time direct; and such delegates of districts under the administration of the Global Mission Committee of the Church of the Nazarene as may be provided for by the General Assembly.

31.2. Election of Delegates. At a district assembly within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary, an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates to the General Assembly shall be [chosen as may be provided by the General Assembly, and] *elected by plurality vote*, provided that the ministerial dele-

gates shall be assigned ordained ministers of the Church of the Nazarene. Each Phase 3 assembly district shall be entitled to at least one ministerial and one lay delegate, and such additional delegates as its membership may warrant on the basis of representation fixed by the General Assembly. Each assembly district shall elect alternate delegates not exceeding *twice* the number of its delegates. *In situations where travel visas are problematic, a district assembly may authorize the District Advisory Board to select additional alternates.* (203.23, 301-1.1)[6]

31.3. Credentials. The secretary of each district assembly shall furnish certificates of election to the delegates and alternates severally elected to the General Assembly, and shall also send certificates of such elections to the general secretary of the Church of the Nazarene immediately following the adjournment of the district assembly.

31.4. Quorum. When the General Assembly is in session, a majority of the whole number of delegates elected thereto shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If a quorum has once been had, a smaller number may approve the minutes then remaining unapproved, and adjourn.

31.5. General Superintendents. The General Assembly shall elect by ballot from among the elders of the Church of the Nazarene as many general superintendents as it may deem necessary, who shall constitute the Board of General Superintendents. Any vacancy in the office of general superintendent in the interim of General Assemblies shall be filled by a two-thirds vote of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene. (305.2, 316)

31.6. Presiding Officers. A general superintendent appointed thereto by the Board of General Superintendents shall preside over the daily meetings of the General Assem-

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bly. But if no general superintendent be so appointed or be present, the General Assembly shall elect one of its members as temporary presiding officer. (300.1)

31.7. Rules of Order. The General Assembly shall adopt rules of order governing its manner of organization, procedure, committees, and all other matters pertaining to the orderly conduct of its business. It shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its own members. (300.2-0.3)

31.8. General Court of Appeals. The General Assembly shall elect from among members of the Church of the Nazarene a General Court of Appeals and shall define its jurisdiction and powers. (305.7)

31.9. Powers and Restrictions.

(1) The General Assembly shall have power to legislate for the Church of the Nazarene, and to make rules and regulations for all the departments related to or associated with it in any respect, but not in conflict with this Constitution. (300, 305-5.9)

(2) No local church shall be deprived of the right to call its pastor, subject to such approval as the General Assembly shall find wise to institute. (115)

(3) All local churches, officers, ministers, and laypersons shall always have the right to a fair and orderly trial and the right to make an appeal.

AMENDMENTS

32. The provisions of this Constitution may be repealed or amended when concurred in by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly members present and voting, and when concurred in by not less than two-thirds of all the Phase 3 and Phase 2 district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene. Either the General Assembly or any Phase 3 or Phase 2 district assembly may take the initiative in the matter of proposing such amendments. As soon as such amendments shall have been adopted as herein provided, the result of the vote shall be announced by the Board of General Superintendents, whereupon such amendments shall have full force and effect.

PART III

The Covenant of Christian Conduct

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE AND/OR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

HUMAN SEXUALITY

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

CHURCH OFFICERS

RULES OF ORDER

AMENDING THE COVENANT OF CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

A. The Christian Life

33. The church joyfully proclaims the good news that we may be delivered from all sin to a new life in Christ. By the grace of God we Christians are "to put off the old self"—the old patterns of conduct as well as the old carnal mind—and are to "put on the new self"—a new and holy way of life as well as the mind of Christ.

(Ephesians 4:17-24)

33.1. The Church of the Nazarene purposes to relate timeless biblical principles to contemporary society in such a way that the doctrines and covenants of the church may be known and understood in many lands and within a variety of cultures. We hold that the Ten Commandments, as reaffirmed in the New Testament, constitute the basic Christian ethic and ought to be obeyed in all particulars.

33.2. It is further recognized that there is validity in the concept of the collective Christian conscience as illuminated and guided by the Holy Spirit. The Church of the Nazarene, as an international expression of the Body of Christ, acknowledges its responsibility to seek ways to particularize the Christian life so as to lead to a holiness ethic. The historic ethical standards of the church are expressed in part in the following items. They should be followed carefully and conscientiously as guides and helps to holy living. Those who violate the conscience of the church do so at their own peril and to the hurt of the witness of the church. Culturally conditioned adaptations shall be referred to and approved by the Board of General Superintendents.

33.3. The Church of the Nazarene believes this new and holy way of life involves practices to be avoided and redemptive acts of love to be accomplished for the souls, minds, and bodies of our neighbors. One redemptive arena of love involves the special relationship Jesus had, and commanded His disciples to have, with the poor of this world; that His Church ought, first, to keep itself simple and free from an emphasis on wealth and extravagance and, second, to give itself to the care, feeding, clothing, and shelter of the poor and marginalized. Throughout the Bible and in the life and

example of Jesus, God identifies with and assists the poor, the oppressed, and those in society who cannot speak for themselves. In the same way, we, too, are called to identify with and to enter into solidarity with the poor. We hold that compassionate ministry to the poor includes acts of charity as well as a struggle to provide opportunity, equality, and justice for the poor. We further believe the Christian's responsibility to the poor is an essential aspect of the life of every believer who seeks a faith that works through love. We believe Christian holiness to be inseparable from ministry to the poor in that it drives the Christian beyond their own individual perfection and toward the creation of a more just and equitable society and world. Holiness, far from distancing believers from the desperate economic needs of people in this world, motivates us to place our means in the service of alleviating such need and to adjust our wants in accordance with the needs of others.

(Exodus 23:11; Deuteronomy 15:7; Psalms 41:1; 82:3; Proverbs 19:17; 21:13; 22:9; Jeremiah 22:16; Matthew 19:21; Luke 12:33; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 2:10)

33.4. In listing practices to be avoided we recognize that no catalog, however inclusive, can hope to encompass all forms of evil throughout the world. Therefore it is imperative that our people earnestly seek the aid of the Spirit in cultivating a sensitivity to evil that transcends the mere letter of the law; remembering the admonition: "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."

(1 Thessalonians 5:21-22)

33.5. Our leaders and pastors are expected to give strong emphasis in our periodicals and from our pulpits to such fundamental biblical truths as will develop the faculty of discrimination between the evil and the good.

33.6. Education is of the utmost importance for the social and spiritual well-being of society. Public schools have a mandate to educate all. They are limited, however, as to their scope and, in fact, are prohibited by court rulings from teaching the basic tenets of Christianity. Nazarene educational organizations and institutions, such as Sunday

Schools, schools (birth through secondary), child care centers, adult care centers, colleges, and seminaries, are expected to teach children, youth, and adults biblical principles and ethical standards in such a way that our doctrines may be known. This practice may be instead of or in addition to public schools, which often teach secular humanism and fall short of teaching principles of holy living. The education from public sources should be complemented by holiness teaching in the home. Christians should also be encouraged to work in and with public institutions to witness to and influence these institutions for God's kingdom.

(Matthew 5:13-14)

34. We hold specifically that the following practices should be avoided:

34.1. Entertainments that are subversive of the Christian ethic. Our people, both as Christian individuals and in Christian family units, should govern themselves by three principles. One is the Christian stewardship of leisure time. A second principle is the recognition of the Christian obligation to apply the highest moral standards of Christian living. Because we are living in a day of great moral confusion in which we face the potential encroachment of the evils of the day into the sacred precincts of our homes through various avenues such as current literature, radio, television, personal computers, and the Internet, it is essential that the most rigid safeguards be observed to keep our homes from becoming secularized and worldly. However, we hold that entertainment that endorses and encourages holy living and affirms scriptural values should be affirmed and encouraged. We especially encourage our young people to use their gifts in media and the arts to influence positively this pervasive part of culture. The third principle is the obligation to witness against whatever trivializes or blasphemes God, as well as such social evils as violence, sensuality, pornography, profanity, and the occult, as portrayed by and through the commercial entertainment industry in its many forms and to endeavor to bring about the demise of enterprises known to be the purveyors of this kind of entertain-

ment. This would include the avoidance of all types of entertainment ventures and media productions that produce, promote, or feature the violent, the sensual, the pornographic, the profane, or the occultic, or which feature or glamorize the world's philosophy of secularism, sensualism, and materialism and undermine God's standard of holiness of heart and life.

This necessitates the teaching and preaching of these moral standards of Christian living, and that our people be taught to use prayerful discernment in continually choosing the "high road" of holy living. We therefore call upon our leaders and pastors to give strong emphasis in our periodicals and from our pulpits to such fundamental truths as will develop the principle of discrimination between the evil and good to be found in these media.

We suggest that the standard given to John Wesley by his mother, namely, "whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the relish of spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of your body over mind, that thing for you is sin," form the basis for this teaching of discrimination. (33.2-33.4, 903.12-3.14)

(Romans 14:7-13; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Ephesians 5:1-18; Philippians 4:8-9; 1 Peter 1:13-17; 2 Peter 1:3-11)

34.2. Lotteries and other forms of gambling, whether legal or illegal. The church holds that the final result of these practices is detrimental both to the individual and society.

(Matthew 6:24-34; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-11; Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 John 2:15-17)

34.3. Membership in oath-bound secret orders or societies including but not limited to those such as Freemasonry. The quasi-religious nature of such organizations dilutes the Christian's commitment, and their secrecy contravenes the Christian's open witness. This issue will be considered in conjunction with paragraph 112.1 regarding church membership.

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Ephesians 5:11-16; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17)

34.4. All forms of dancing that detract from spiritual growth and break down proper moral inhibitions and reserve.

(Matthew 22:36-39; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 3:1-17)

34.5. The use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, or trafficking therein; giving influence to, or voting for, the licensing of places for the sale of the same; using illicit drugs or trafficking therein; using of tobacco in any of its forms, or trafficking therein.

In light of the Holy Scriptures and human experience concerning the ruinous consequences of the use of alcohol as a beverage, and in light of the findings of medical science regarding the detrimental effect of both alcohol and tobacco to the body and mind, as a community of faith committed to the pursuit of a holy life, our position and practice is abstinence rather than moderation. Holy Scripture teaches that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. With loving regard for ourselves and others, we call our people to total abstinence from all intoxicants.

Furthermore, our Christian social responsibility calls us to use any legitimate and legal means to minimize the availability of both beverage alcohol and tobacco to others. The widespread incidence of alcohol abuse in our world demands that we embody a position that stands as a witness to others. (903.12-3.14)

(Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-24:2; Hosea 4:10-11; Habakkuk 2:5; Romans 13:8; 14:15-21; 15:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:9-12, 19-20; 10:31-33; Galatians 5:13-14, 21; Ephesians 5:18)

(Only unfermented wine should be used in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.) (413.11, 427.7, 428.2, 429.1, 802)

34.6. The unprescribed use of hallucinogenics, stimulants, and depressants, and the misuse and abuse of regularly prescribed medicines. Only on competent medical advice and under medical supervision should such drugs be used.

(Matthew 22:37-39; 27:34; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 9:24-27)

B. Marriage and Divorce and/or Dissolution of Marriage[1]

35. The Christian family, knit together in a common bond through Jesus Christ, is a circle of love, fellowship, and worship to be earnestly cultivated in a society in which family ties are easily dissolved. We urge upon the ministry and congregations of our church such teachings and practices as will strengthen and develop family ties. In particular, we urge upon the ministry the importance of teaching and preaching clearly the biblical plan of the permanence of marriage.

The institution of marriage was ordained by God in the time of man's innocence, and is, according to apostolic authority, "honourable in all;" it is the mutual union of one man and one woman for fellowship, helpfulness, and the propagation of the race. Our people should cherish this sacred estate as becomes Christians, and should enter it only after earnest prayer for divine direction, and when assured that the contemplated union is in accordance with scriptural requirements.

They should seek earnestly the blessings that God has ordained in connection with the wedded state, namely, holy companionship, parenthood, and mutual love—the elements of home building. The marriage covenant is morally binding so long as both shall live, and breaking of it is a breach of the divine plan of the permanence of marriage.

(Genesis 1:26-28, 31; 2:21-24; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4)

35.1. In biblical teaching, marriage is the commitment of male and female to each other for life, reflecting Christ's sacrificial love for the Church. As such, marriage is intended to be permanent, and divorce an infraction of the clear teaching of Christ. Such infractions, however, are not beyond the forgiving grace of God when this is sought with repentance, faith and humility. It is recognized that some have di-

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1. The meaning of divorce in this covenant shall include "dissolution of marriage" when it is used as a legal substitute for divorce.

vorce thrust upon them against their will or are compelled to resort to it for legal or physical protection.

(Genesis 2:21-24; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 7:36-50, 16:18; John 7:53-8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 7:10-16; Ephesians 5:25-33)

35.2. Ministers of the Church of the Nazarene are instructed to give due care to matters relating to solemnizing marriages. They shall seek, in every manner possible, to convey to their congregations the sacredness of Christian marriage. They shall provide premarital counseling in every instance possible before performing a marriage ceremony including proper spiritual guidance for those who have experienced divorce. They shall only solemnize marriages of persons having the biblical basis for marriage. (107-7.1)

35.3. Members of the Church of the Nazarene are to seek prayerfully a redemptive course of action when involved in marital unhappiness, in full harmony with their vows and the clear teachings of the Scripture, their aim being to save the home and safeguard the good name of both Christ and His Church. Couples having serious marital problems are urged to seek counsel and guidance of their pastor and/or any other appropriate spiritual leaders. Failure to comply with this procedure in good faith and with sincere endeavor to seek a Christian solution, and subsequent obtainment of divorce and remarriage, makes one or both parties subject to possible discipline as prescribed in 504-4.2 and 505-5.12.

35.4. Through ignorance, sin, and human frailties, many in our society fall short of the divine plan. We believe that Christ can redeem these persons even as He did the woman at Samaria's well, and that sin against God's design for marriage does not place one beyond the forgiving grace of the gospel. Where a marriage has been dissolved and remarriage has followed, the marriage partners are enjoined to seek the grace of God and His redemptive help in their marriage relation. Such persons may be received into the membership of the church at such time as they have given evidence of their regeneration and an awareness of their understanding of the sanctity of Christian marriage. (27, 107.1)

C. Sanctity of Human Life

36. The Church of the Nazarene believes in the sanctity of human life and strives to protect against abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, and the withholding of reasonable medical care to handicapped or elderly.

Induced Abortion. The Church of the Nazarene affirms the sanctity of human life as established by God the Creator and believes that such sanctity extends to the child not yet born. Life is a gift from God. All human life, including life developing in the womb, is created by God in His image and is, therefore, to be nurtured, supported, and protected. From the moment of conception, a child is a human being with all of the developing characteristics of human life, and this life is dependent on the mother for its continued development. Therefore, we believe that human life must be respected and protected from the moment of conception. We oppose induced abortion by any means, when used for either personal convenience or population control. We oppose laws that allow abortion. Realizing that there are rare, but real medical conditions wherein the mother or the unborn child, or both, could not survive the pregnancy, termination of the pregnancy should only be made after sound medical and Christian counseling.

Responsible opposition to abortion requires our commitment to the initiation and support of programs designed to provide care for mothers and children. The crisis of an unwanted pregnancy calls for the community of believers (represented only by those for whom knowledge of the crisis is appropriate) to provide a context of love, prayer, and counsel. In such instances, support can take the form of counseling centers, homes for expectant mothers, and the creation or utilization of Christian adoption services.

The Church of the Nazarene recognizes that consideration of abortion as a means of ending an unwanted pregnancy often occurs because Christian standards of sexual responsibility have been ignored. Therefore the church calls for persons to practice the ethic of the New Testament as it bears upon human sexuality and to deal with the issue of abortion

by placing it within the larger framework of biblical principles that provide guidance for moral decision making.

(Genesis 2:7, 9:6; Exodus 20:13; 21:12-16, 22-25; Leviticus 18:21; Job 31:15; Psalms 22:9; 139:3-16; Isaiah 44:2, 24; 49:5; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:15, 23-25, 36-45; Acts 17:25; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:16; 7:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6)

The Church of the Nazarene also recognizes that many have been affected by the tragedy of abortion. Each local congregation and individual believer is urged to offer the message of forgiveness by God for each person who has experienced abortion. Our local congregations are to be communities of redemption and hope to all who suffer physical, emotional, and spiritual pain as a result of the willful termination of a pregnancy.

(Romans 3:22-24; Galatians 6:1)

Genetic Engineering and Gene Therapy. The Church of the Nazarene supports the use of genetic engineering to achieve gene therapy. We recognize that gene therapy can lead to preventing and curing disease, and preventing and curing anatomical and mental disorders. We oppose any use of genetic engineering that promotes social injustice, disregards the dignity of persons, or that attempts to achieve racial, intellectual, or social superiority over others (Eugenics). We oppose initiation of DNA studies whose results might encourage or support human abortion as an alternative to term live birth. In all cases, humility, a respect for the inviolable dignity of human life, human equality before God, and a commitment to mercy and justice should govern genetic engineering and gene therapy.

(Micah 6:8)

Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Other Medical/Scientific Endeavors that Destroy Human Life after Conception. The Church of the Nazarene strongly encourages the scientific community to aggressively pursue advances in stem cell technology obtained from sources such as adult human tissues, placenta, umbilical cord blood, animal sources, and other non-human embryonic sources. This has the righteous end of attempting to bring healing to many, without violating the sanctity of human

life. Our stand on human embryonic stem cell research flows from our affirmation that the human embryo is a person made in the image of God. Therefore, we oppose the use of stem cells produced from human embryos for research, therapeutic interventions, or any other purpose.

As future scientific advances make new technologies available, we strongly support this research when it does not violate the sanctity of human life or other moral, biblical laws. However, we oppose the destruction of human embryos for any purpose and any type of research that takes the life of a human after conception. Consistent with this view, we oppose the use, for any purpose, of tissue derived from aborted human fetuses.

Human Cloning. We oppose the cloning of an individual human being. Humankind is valued by God, who created us in His image, and the cloning of an individual human being treats that being as an object, thus denying the personal dignity and worth bestowed on us by our Creator.

(Genesis 1:27)

Euthanasia (Including Physician Assisted Suicide). We believe that euthanasia (intentionally ending the life of a terminally ill person, or one who has a debilitating and incurable disease that is not immediately life-threatening, for the purpose of ending suffering) is incompatible with the Christian faith. This applies when euthanasia is requested or consented to by the terminally ill person (voluntary euthanasia) and when the terminally ill person is not mentally competent to give consent (involuntary euthanasia). We believe that the historic rejection of euthanasia by the Christian church is confirmed by Christian convictions that derive from the Bible and that are central to the Church's confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Euthanasia violates Christian confidence in God as the sovereign Lord of life by claiming sovereignty for oneself; it violates our role as stewards before God; it contributes to an erosion of the value the Bible places on human life and community; it attaches too much importance to the cessation of suffering; and it reflects a human arrogance before a graciously sovereign God. We urge our people to oppose all efforts to legalize euthanasia.

Allowing to Die. When human death is imminent, we believe that either withdrawing or not originating artificial life-support systems is permissible within the range of Christian faith and practice. This position applies to persons who are in a persistent vegetative state and to those for whom the application of extraordinary means for prolonging life provide no reasonable hope for a return to health. We believe that when death is imminent, nothing in the Christian faith requires that the process of dying be artificially postponed. As Christians we trust in God's faithfulness and have the hope of eternal life. This makes it possible for Christians to accept death as an expression of faith in Christ who overcame death on our behalf and robbed it of its victory.

D. Human Sexuality

37. The Church of the Nazarene views human sexuality as one expression of the holiness and beauty that God the Creator intended for His creation. It is one of the ways by which the covenant between a husband and a wife is sealed and expressed. Christians are to understand that in marriage human sexuality can and ought to be sanctified by God. Human sexuality achieves fulfillment only as a sign of comprehensive love and loyalty. Christian husbands and wives should view sexuality as a part of their much larger commitment to one another and to Christ from whom the meaning of life is drawn.

The Christian home should serve as a setting for teaching children the sacred character of human sexuality and for showing them how its meaning is fulfilled in the context of love, fidelity, and patience.

Our ministers and Christian educators should state clearly the Christian understanding of human sexuality, urging Christians to celebrate its rightful excellence, and rigorously to guard against its betrayal and distortion.

Sexuality misses its purpose when treated as an end in itself or when cheapened by using another person to satisfy pornographic and perverted sexual interests. We view all forms of sexual intimacy that occur outside the covenant of

heterosexual marriage as sinful distortions of the holiness and beauty God intended for it.

Homosexuality is one means by which human sexuality is perverted. We recognize the depth of the perversion that leads to homosexual acts but affirm the biblical position that such acts are sinful and subject to the wrath of God. We believe the grace of God sufficient to overcome the practice of homosexuality (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We deplore any action or statement that would seem to imply compatibility between Christian morality and the practice of homosexuality. We urge clear preaching and teaching concerning Bible standards of sexual morality.

(Genesis 1:27; 19:1-25; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-10)

E. Christian Stewardship

38. Meaning of Stewardship. The Scriptures teach that God is the Owner of all persons and all things. We, therefore, are His stewards of both life and possessions. God's ownership and our stewardship ought to be acknowledged, for we shall be held personally accountable to God for the exercise of our stewardship. God, as a God of system and order in all of His ways, has established a system of giving that acknowledges His ownership over all human resources and relationships. To this end all His children should faithfully tithe and present offerings for the support of the gospel. (140)

(Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:24-34; 25:31-46; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 12:13-24; 19:11-27; John 15:1-17; Romans 12:1-13; 1 Corinthians 9:7-14; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Hebrews 7:8; James 1:27; 1 John 3:16-18)

38.1. Storehouse Tithing. Storehouse tithing is a scriptural and practical performance of faithfully and regularly placing the tithe into that church to which the member belongs. Therefore, the financing of the church shall be based on the plan of storehouse tithing, and the local Church of the Nazarene shall be regarded by all of its people as the storehouse. All who are a part of the Church of the Nazarene are urged to contribute faithfully one-tenth of all their

increase as a minimum financial obligation to the Lord and freewill offerings in addition as God has prospered them for the support of the whole church, local, district, educational, and general. The tithe, provided to the local Church of the Nazarene, shall be considered a priority over all other giving opportunities which God may lay upon the hearts of His faithful stewards, in support of the whole church.

38.2. Fund-raising and Distribution. In the light of the scriptural teaching concerning the giving of tithes and offerings for the support of the gospel, and for the erection of church buildings, no Nazarene church should engage in any method of fund-raising that would detract from these principles, hinder the gospel message, sully the name of the church, discriminate against the poor, or misdirect the people's energies from promoting the gospel.

In disbursing to meet the requirements of the local, district, educational, and general programs of the Church of the Nazarene, local churches are urged to adopt and practice a financial apportionment plan, and to pay general, educational, and district apportionments monthly. (130, 154, 155-55.2, 413.21)

38.3. Support of the Ministry. "In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14). The church is obligated to support its ministers, who have been called of God, and who, under the direction of the church, have given themselves wholly to the work of the ministry. We urge therefore that the members of the church voluntarily commit themselves to the task of supporting the ministry by gathering money weekly for this holy business and that the pastor's salary be paid regularly every week. (115.4)

38.4. Life Income Gifts, Planned and Deferred Giving. It is essential in the exercise of Christian stewardship that careful thought be given as to what shall be done with one's income and possessions over which the Lord makes the Christian a steward during this life. The Church of the Nazarene, recognizing the need for faithful stewardship in this life and the God-given vision to leave a legacy for the future,

has established the Church of the Nazarene Foundation to enhance Christian stewardship through planned and deferred giving. Civil laws often do not provide for the distribution of an estate in such a way as to glorify God. Each Christian should give attention to the preparation of a last will and testament in a careful and legal manner, and the Church of the Nazarene through its various ministries of missions, evangelism, education, and benevolences—local, district, educational, and general—is recommended for consideration.

38.5. Apportionments. The government of the Church of the Nazarene is representative. Each local congregation supports the overall mission of the church as defined by the General Assembly and implemented through the leadership of the Board of General Superintendents in world evangelism, education, ministerial support, and district ministries.

The Board of General Superintendents, with the General Board, is authorized and empowered to apportion the World Evangelism Fund to the several assembly districts. (317.12)

Subject to *Manual* paragraph 337.1, national boards and/or regional advisory councils are authorized and empowered to establish ministerial retirement savings plans on their region. Reporting of such plans shall be as provided in *Manual* paragraph 337.2. The provisions of paragraph 38.5 shall not apply to the Board of Pensions and Benefits USA.

National boards and/or regional advisory councils are also authorized and empowered to establish support for the higher education institutions on their region. (344, 345.3)

Each district is authorized and empowered to establish district ministry apportionments through the District Assembly Finance Committee. (235.1)

F. Church Officers

39. We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the

Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (113.11, 127, 145-147)

G. Rules of Order

40. Subject to the applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, the meetings and proceedings of the members of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated and controlled according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (113, 203, 300.3)

H. Amending the Covenant of Christian Conduct

41. The provisions of the Covenant of Christian Conduct may be repealed or amended when concurred in by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting of a given General Assembly.

PART IV

Government

THE LOCAL CHURCH

THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HIGHER EDUCATION

PREAMBLE

The task of the Church of the Nazarene is to make known to all peoples the transforming grace of God through the forgiveness of sins and heart cleansing in Jesus Christ. Our mission first and foremost is to "make Christlike disciples in the nations," to incorporate believers into fellowship and membership (congregations), and to equip (teach) for ministry all who respond in faith. The ultimate goal of the "community of faith" is to present everyone perfect in Christ (Colossians 1:28) at the last day.

It is in the local church that the saving, perfecting, teaching, and commissioning takes place. The local church, the Body of Christ, is the representation of our faith and mission. These churches are grouped administratively into districts and regions.

The bases of unity in the Church of the Nazarene are those beliefs, polity, definitions, and procedures as articulated in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

The core of this unity is declared in the *Articles of Faith* of the *Manual*. We encourage the church in all regions and languages to translate—widely distribute—and teach these beliefs to our constituency. This is the golden strand that is woven into the fabric of all we are and do as Nazarenes.

A visible reflection of this unity is represented by the General Assembly, which is the "supreme doctrine-formulating, lawmaking, and elective authority of the Church of the Nazarene." (300)

A second reflection is the international General Board, which represents the entire church.

A third reflection is the Board of General Superintendents, who may interpret the *Manual*, approve cultural adaptations, and ordain to the ministry.

The government of the Church of the Nazarene is representative, and thus avoids the extremes of episcopacy on the one hand and unlimited congregationalism on the other.

In global regions served by the church where cultural and political differences may necessitate, adaptations of local, district, and regional church government procedures contained in Part IV, Chapters I, II, and III (sections 100, 200, 300), may be made. Requests for all such adaptations shall be submitted in writing to and approved by the Board of General Superintendents.

CHAPTER I

THE LOCAL CHURCH

A. Organization, Name, Incorporation, Property, Restrictions, Mergers, Disorganization

100. Organization. Local churches may be organized by the district superintendent, or by the general superintendent having jurisdiction, or by an elder authorized by either of them. Official reports of new churches shall be filed with the General Secretary's office through the respective jurisdictional office. (29, 107, 208.1, 435.12)

100.1. The Multicongregational Church. Organized local churches may enlarge their ministry by establishing Bible classes in various languages using the facilities of these churches. These Bible classes may develop into church-type missions or fully organized churches (100). This may result in more than one congregation existing under one church name, with the approval of the district superintendent. In such multicongregational churches where not all the individual congregations are fully organized churches, the District Advisory Board, with the approval of the district superintendent and the general superintendent in jurisdiction, may grant to such congregations the rights and privileges of an organized local church subject to the following conditions:

1. Such congregations may not be incorporated separate from the organized local church.
2. Such congregations shall not hold title to property separate from the organized local church.

3. Such congregations shall not incur indebtedness without the approval of the district superintendent, the church board of the organized local church, and the District Advisory Board.
4. No such congregation may withdraw as a body from the organized local church or in any way sever its relation thereto except by the express permission of the district superintendent in consultation with the pastor of the local church.

101. Name. The name of a newly organized church shall be determined by the local church in consultation with the district superintendent and with the approval of the District Advisory Board. (102.4)

101.1. Change of Name. A local Church of the Nazarene may change its name by a majority ballot vote in an annual or special meeting of the church membership. Processes for the change shall be: *(a)* The local church board submits the proposed change to the district superintendent who shall obtain the written approval of the District Advisory Board; *(b)* the local church votes; *(c)* the District Advisory Board reports the change to the district assembly, and the district assembly votes approval of the same. (102.4)

102. Incorporation. In all places where the statutes will permit, the trustees shall have the local church incorporated, and the said trustees and their successors shall be the trustees of the said corporation. Where not inconsistent with civil law, the Articles of Incorporation shall set forth the powers of the corporation, and provide that the corporation shall be subject to the government of the Church of the Nazarene, as from time to time authorized and declared in its *Manual* by the General Assembly of said church. All the property of this corporation shall be managed and controlled by the trustees subject to the approval of the local church.

102.1. Where property is purchased and developed by the District Advisory Board for a local church or where a new church is formed, upon the repayment by the local church of the money invested by the District Advisory Board, it is deemed advisable that the District Advisory Board transfer the title to the local church.

102.2. When a local church is incorporated, all property acquired shall be deeded directly to the church in its corporate name when it is possible to do so. (102.6)

102.3. The pastor and the secretary of the church board shall be the president and secretary of the church, incorporated or not incorporated, and shall execute and sign all conveyances of real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents of the church not otherwise provided for in the *Manual* and subject to the restrictions set forth in 104-4.3.

102.4. The Articles of Incorporation of each local church shall include the following provisions:

1. The corporate name shall include the words "Church of the Nazarene." The name "Church of the Nazarene" shall appear on church signs, official stationery, and church publications.
2. The bylaws of the corporation shall be the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.*
3. The Articles of Incorporation shall not contain any provision that might prevent the local church from qualifying for any tax exemption available to churches in the same area.
4. Upon dissolution, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed to the District Advisory Board.

The Articles of Incorporation may contain additional provisions when appropriate under local law. No provision, however, shall be included that can cause the property of the local church to be diverted from the Church of the Nazarene. (101-1.1, 104.3, 106.1-6.3)

102.5. In multicongregational churches, where more than one organized church shares the same facility, incorporation may take place in partnership where local laws allow.

102.6. In localities where incorporation is not possible, the church name shall include the words "Church of the Nazarene" on all legal documents including, but not limited to the property deed(s) and deed(s) of trust. (102.2)

103. Property. The local church considering the purchase or sale of real estate, the erection of churches or church-related buildings, a major remodeling of either, or leasing real

property for any reason, shall submit its proposal to the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board for their consideration, advice, and approval. The local church shall submit quarterly financial and status reports to this board throughout the construction process. No indebtedness, whether involving a mortgage or not, shall be incurred in the purchase of real estate or the erection of buildings or a major remodeling of either, without the written approval of the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board. (233-34.5)

103.1. In case agreement cannot be reached between the church board and the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board, the issue may be submitted to the general superintendent having jurisdiction, for a decision. Either the church or the district superintendent may appeal such decision to the Board of General Superintendents for a final decision. All such appeals, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto, whether to the general superintendent in jurisdiction or the Board of General Superintendents, shall be in writing. A copy of the appeal, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto by either the church board or the district superintendent shall be sent to the other party involved. The minute record of a church board appeal shall include the appeal resolution, arguments sustaining it, and the record of the vote taken.

104. Restrictions. The local church may not purchase real estate, nor sell, mortgage, refinance, exchange, or in any other way encumber real property, or otherwise dispose of real estate unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual meeting, or at a special meeting duly called. The church board may approve by two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, properties donated for the specific purpose of providing funds for the local church. Both items require the written approval of the district superintendent and the District Church Properties Board. (113.3-13.4, 113.7-13.8, 234.3)

104.1. The real estate of the local church shall not be mortgaged to meet current expenses.

104.2. A local church which mortgages or sells real estate, or receives insurance claims on real estate, shall use the proceeds only for the purchase or capital improvement of real estate, or to reduce other real estate indebtedness. Only with the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board shall any proceeds be used for other purposes.

104.3. Trustees and/or a local church may not divert property from the use of the Church of the Nazarene. (113-13.1)

104.4. Withdrawal of Churches. No local church may withdraw as a body from the Church of the Nazarene, or in any way sever its relation thereto, except by provision of the General Assembly, and upon agreed conditions and plans. (106.2-6.3)

105. Mergers. Two or more local churches may be merged upon two-thirds favorable vote by ballot of the members present and voting at specially called meetings of the churches involved, provided: the merger shall be recommended by a majority vote by ballot of all the members of the respective church boards, and the merger shall have been approved in writing by the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

The merger shall be finalized in a special meeting of the new congregation for the purpose of electing officers and making pastoral arrangements. The district superintendent, or an elder appointed by the superintendent, shall preside.

The organization thus created shall combine the total membership of the former churches, the membership of all departments of those churches, and may combine part or all of the assets and liabilities of those churches subject to the approval of the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The merger will also combine the general, educational, and district apportionments.

Upon the notification by the district superintendent, the general secretary of the Church of the Nazarene is authorized to remove the names of the inactive churches from the roll of churches.

106. Declaring Churches Inactive/Disorganized. Churches may be declared inactive for a period of transition by action of the District Advisory Board.

106.1. A local church may be disorganized on recommendation from the district superintendent and a two-thirds vote of the District Advisory Board. Such action shall be taken only after the district superintendent has consulted with and received an affirmative response from the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

106.2. In case a local church becomes disorganized, or in the event of withdrawal or attempted withdrawal from the Church of the Nazarene (as certified by the District Advisory Board), any church property that may exist may in no way be diverted to other purposes, but title shall pass to the District Advisory Board acting as agent for said district where such has been incorporated, or other authorized agents, for the use of the Church of the Nazarene at large, as the district assembly shall direct. Local church trustees holding property for the disorganized church shall sell or dispose of the same only on the order and under the direction of the District Advisory Board or other appointed agent of the district assembly, with the written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction; either conveying said property or delivering the proceeds from the sale thereof as directed by the district assembly or its District Advisory Board. (104.4, 222.18)

106.3. No trustee or trustees of a disorganized church, or a church that withdraws or attempts to withdraw from the Church of the Nazarene, may divert property from the use of the Church of the Nazarene. (104.4, 141-44, 222.18)

106.4. Only those churches officially disorganized may be dropped from the records of the general secretary.

106.5. When a local church has been declared inactive, the signatories on all church monetary and/or security accounts must transfer the proceeds of the same to the District Advisory Board for deposit. Refusal to comply authorizes the District Advisory Board by resolution to close all accounts and assume jurisdiction of all assets where the law allows.

B. Membership

107. Full Membership. All persons who have been organized into a local church by those authorized so to do, and all who have been publicly received by the pastor, the district superintendent, or the general superintendent, after having declared their experience of salvation, and their belief in the doctrines of the Church of the Nazarene, and their willingness to submit to its government, shall compose the full membership of the local church. The local church leadership shall seek to place every member into a ministry of service and a circle of care and support. (29, 35.4, 107.2, 111, 113.1, 414.1, 418, 429.8, 435.8-35.9)

107.1. When persons desire to unite with the church, the pastor shall explain to them the privileges and responsibilities of membership in the church, the *Articles of Faith*, the requirements of the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct, and the purpose and mission of the Church of the Nazarene.

After consulting with the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee, the minister shall receive qualified candidates into the membership of the church in a public service, using the approved form for the reception of members (801). (27, 33-39, 110-10.4, 225)

107.2. Members of a Church-Type Mission. Where the organization of a local church has not been effected, a church-type mission shall receive and report church members according to 107 and 107.1 in the annual statistics.

107.3. Voting and Office-bearing. Only those who are full and active members of the local church, and have reached their 15th birthday, may hold office in the church where local law allows, vote in annual or special church meetings, or represent the church as delegates to the district assembly.

108. Associate Membership. Where a district makes provision, a local church may have associate members who shall have all the privileges of church members, with the exception of voting and holding church office. (203.24)

108.1. Associate members may be received into full membership or dropped at any time, at the discretion of the pastor and Evangelism and Church Membership Committee.

109. Inactive Membership. A local church may designate persons as "inactive members" for the reasons stated in 109.1 and 109.2. (112.3, 133)

109.1. A member of a local church who has moved to another community and ceases to be active at his or her church of membership should be urged to attend the Church of the Nazarene there and to request a transfer of membership to that church.

109.2. When a member of a church has been absent from all religious services of the church for six successive months without a reason deemed justifiable by the church board, and attempt has been made to encourage him or her to become active when possible, that person's membership may be declared inactive upon recommendation of the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee and action of the church board. The person shall be informed by a redemptive letter from the pastor within seven days of the action of the church board. After such action of the church board, the pastor shall write opposite the member's name "Placed on the Inactive Membership Roll by the church board (date)."

109.3. Inactive members shall be included in the full membership of the local church with active members. Membership shall be reported to the district assembly in separate categories, namely (1) active and (2) inactive members.

109.4. Inactive members shall not be eligible to vote in annual or special church meetings or hold office.

109.5. An inactive member may request in writing that the church board return his or her name to the active membership roll of the church. Such request must include a reaffirmation of the vows of membership and renewed participation in the worship activities of the local church. The church board shall respond to the request within 60 days. Full membership may be restored to such a person by recommendation of the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee and action of the church board.

C. Evangelism and Church Membership Committee

110. The church board shall provide an Evangelism and Church Membership Committee of not fewer than three persons acting in an advisory capacity to the pastor, who shall be the chairperson. Its duties shall be:

110.1. To promote evangelism in the local church and seek to conserve the fruits of evangelism. (107-7.1, 129.24)

110.2. To study and recommend to the church board and departments ways to emphasize evangelism in the whole life of the church.

110.3. To serve as the local committee to implement both general and district denominational programs of evangelism.

110.4. To urge new converts to qualify for church membership by a consistent devotional life, a study of the Bible and the *Manual,* individually and/or in a pastor's membership class, remembering that members received by profession of faith help to conserve the fruits of evangelism. (26-27, 35.4)

110.5. To endeavor to bring new members into total fellowship and service of the church.

110.6. To work with the pastor in developing a continuing program of spiritual guidance for new members.

110.7. To recommend to the church board, upon nomination by the pastor, the evangelists for local campaigns. It is recommended that at least one campaign each year be conducted by a tenured, commissioned or registered evangelist.

110.8. No person shall be received into full membership of the local church until the pastor first consults with the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee concerning that person's reception. (107.1)

D. Change of Membership

111. Transfer. The pastor, when requested by a member, may grant a transfer of church membership (see form in 813.5) to any local Church of the Nazarene that may be named, such transfer to be valid for three months only. When the reception of the transfer is acknowledged by the

receiving local church, such person's membership in the former local church shall cease. (813.6)

111.1. Commendation. The pastor, when requested by a member, may grant a certificate of commendation (see form in 813.3) to any evangelical church that may be named, after which such person's membership in the local church issuing the certificate shall cease immediately. (112.2)

E. Termination of Membership

112. Ministers. When a licensed or an ordained minister has united with the church membership or ministry of a church other than the Church of the Nazarene, the pastor of the local church in which the minister is a member shall immediately notify the District Ministerial Credentials Board of the fact. The Ministerial Credentials Board shall investigate and confirm the status of the member of the clergy. If the District Ministerial Credentials Board determines that the member of the clergy will be removed from the roll of ministers, the pastor of the local church will also remove the person's name from the membership roll of the church and shall write opposite the name, "Removed by uniting with another denomination." (429.9, 435.10-35.11)

112.1. Laypersons. When a lay member of a local church has accepted membership, license to preach, or ordination from any other religious organizations, or is engaging in independent church or missionary work, his or her membership in the local church shall, because of that fact, immediately cease, except in case that person shall secure the annual written approval of the local church board of the church in which said membership is held, and the annual written approval of the District Advisory Board of the district in which that church is located.

112.2. Release from Membership. The pastor, when requested by a member, may grant a letter of release (see form in 813.4), thus terminating such person's membership immediately. (111.1, 112)

112.3. After two years from the date when a person's membership was declared inactive, his or her name may be removed from the church roll by action of the church board.

After such action of the church board, the pastor shall write opposite the member's name, "Removed by the church board (date)." (109, 133)

F. Church Meetings

113. A meeting of the members of a local church for conference and for the transaction of business shall be known as a church meeting. Subject to the applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, the meetings and proceedings of the members of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated and controlled according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (40, 104, 113.7, 115, 416)

113.1. Only those persons who are full and active members and have reached their 15th birthday shall be entitled to vote in church meetings. (107.3, 109-9.4)

113.2. There is no provision for absentee voting in church meetings.

113.3. Business Transactions. Business, including elections, in harmony with the spirit and order of the church, and not otherwise specially provided for, may be transacted at any church meeting.

113.4. Comply with Civil Law. In all cases where the civil law requires a specific course of procedure in calling and conducting church meetings, that course should be strictly followed. (142)

113.5. Presiding Officer. The pastor, who shall be ex-officio president of the local church, or the district superintendent, or the general superintendent having jurisdiction, or someone appointed by the district superintendent or the general superintendent, shall preside at annual or special church meetings. (210.1, 307.10, 414.15)

113.6. Secretary. The secretary of the church board shall be the secretary of all church meetings; in his or her absence a secretary pro tempore shall be elected. (135.4)

113.7. Annual Meeting. An annual church meeting shall be held within 90 days prior to the meeting of the district

assembly. Public notice of the annual meeting must be given from the pulpit on at least two Sundays before the meeting. This annual meeting may be conducted on more than one day or in more than one service upon approval by the church board.

113.8. Special Meetings. Special church meetings may be called at any time by the pastor, or by the church board after having obtained the consent of the pastor or of the district superintendent or of the general superintendent having jurisdiction. Public notice of special church meetings shall always be given from the pulpit in at least two preceding regular services, or in such manner as meets the requirements of civil law. (104, 113.1, 115-15.1, 123, 137, 139, 142.1, 144)

113.9. Reports. Reports shall be given at the annual church meeting by the pastor (414.7), the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent (146.6), the president of the Nazarene Youth International (151.4), the president of the Nazarene Missions International (153.2), the deaconesses (406), the local ministers (428.1), the secretary (135.2), and the treasurer (136.5) of the church board.

113.10. Nominating Committee. A nominating committee shall be used to nominate officers, boards, and district assembly delegates, whose nominations are not provided for elsewhere.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of not fewer than three nor more than seven members of the church, including the pastor. The nominating committee is to be appointed by the pastor, and approved by the church board annually. The pastor shall be chairperson of the committee. All persons nominated by this committee shall affirm that they fulfill the qualifications required of church officers in paragraph 39.

113.11. Elections. At the annual church meeting there shall be an election, by ballot, of the stewards (137), the trustees (141, 142.1), the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International superintendent (SDMI) (146), and the members of the SDMI Board (145), to serve for the next

church year and until their successors are elected and qualified. Where laws permit and when it is approved by a majority vote of the church members present, all those elected may serve a two-year term. All those elected shall be active members of that same local Church of the Nazarene.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (39, 127, 145-147)

113.12. Where laws permit, and in churches where such procedure and the number to be elected are approved by a majority vote of the church members present, the church board may be elected, and then appropriate proportions designated as stewards and trustees, in harmony with 137 and 141. When a church board is elected in this manner, the board shall organize itself into committees to carry out assigned responsibilities. If a church has elected an education committee as part of its board in harmony with 145, that committee will constitute the Education Committee of the church board. (145-45.10) Alternative board and committee structure may be used by a local church in organizing itself for ministry and missional action, provided such alternatives are approved in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and such structure complies with civil requirements.

113.13. Where laws permit, and in churches where such procedure is approved by a majority vote of the church members present at a duly called annual meeting, after receiving the written approval of the district superintendent, a church may elect one-half its church board members for two-year terms, or one-third of its church board members for three-year terms, in either case designating an equal number to be elected annually. When the church board is elected in this manner, the number of stewards and trustees chosen must comply with 137 and 141.

113.14. At the annual church meeting, there shall be an election, by ballot, of lay delegates to the district assembly, or, if approved by a majority vote of the church membership at the annual meeting, delegates may be recommended by the pastor and approved by the local church board on the basis of representation fixed by the General Assembly according to 201-1.2. All those elected as delegates shall be active members of that same local Church of the Nazarene. (107.3, 113.11)

G. The Church Year

114. The administrative year shall run concurrently with the statistical year of the local church and shall be recognized as the church year.

114.1. The statistical year shall close within 90 days prior to the opening of the district assembly; and the new statistical year shall begin the day following its close. The exact date of the beginning and close of the statistical year within these bounds shall be set by the District Advisory Board. (222.1)

H. Calling of a Pastor

115. An elder or licensed minister (412) may be called to pastor a church by two-thirds favorable vote by ballot of the church members of voting age present and voting at a duly called annual or special meeting of the church, provided that such elder or licensed minister shall have been nominated to the church by the church board, which, after having consulted with the district superintendent, made such nomination by two-thirds vote by ballot of all its members; and provided the nomination shall have been approved by the district superintendent. Any elder or licensed minister with membership in a local church may not be considered for pastor of that church without the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. This call shall be subject to review and continuance as hereinafter provided. (119, 122-24, 129.2, 160.8, 208.10, 222.12)

115.1. Acceptance of a call to pastoral relations shall be given by the minister not later than 15 days from the date of the church meeting voting the call.

115.2. The church board and the pastor should clearly communicate their goals and expectations to each other in writing. (122, 129.3-29.4)

115.3. As soon as practical after a pastor begins serving, the pastor and the congregation may participate in an installation or bonding service. The objective of the service should be to celebrate unity and direction concerning the will of God. Where practical, the district superintendent shall preside.

115.4. Upon issuing a call, the local church will specify the proposed remuneration. The amount of this remuneration shall be determined by the church board. When agreement has been entered into between the church or the church board and the pastor, the payment of the pastor's salary in full shall be considered a moral obligation by the church. If, however, the church becomes unable to continue the payment of the salary agreed upon, such inability and failure shall not be considered a sufficient cause for civil action against the church by the pastor; and in no case shall the church be legally responsible in excess of funds raised during the term of the pastor's actual service, and not otherwise designated.

The local church should also make provision for the pastor's traveling and moving expenses. (38-8.3, 129.8-29.9)

115.5. The remuneration of the pastor shall commence on the Monday preceding the first official Sunday of service to the local church.

116. Local churches should consider providing a maternity or paternity leave for the pastor and associates. District superintendents should encourage local churches to adopt maternity/paternity leave policies.

117. The pastor of a church that has been organized for less than five years, or had less than 35 members voting in the previous annual church meeting, or is receiving regular financial assistance from the district, may be appointed or reappointed by the district superintendent, with the consent of the District Advisory Board. (208.17)

117.1. When a church exceeds 35 voting members or has been organized for at least five years, and its pastor has

served as its appointed pastor for at least two years, a process to be moved from "appointed status" may be initiated. Such process must include a church/pastoral review, majority vote of church board members present, approval of the district superintendent, and approval of the District Advisory Board. The anniversary date for future four-year regular church/pastoral reviews shall be the date of final approval.

118. In case of disagreement between the church board and the district superintendent regarding pastoral arrangements, the church board or the district superintendent may submit the matter to the general superintendent having jurisdiction for his or her decision. From such decision either the church board or the district superintendent may appeal to the Board of General Superintendents. All such appeals, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto, whether to the general superintendent in jurisdiction or the Board of General Superintendents, shall be in writing. A copy of the appeal, rebuttals of appeals, or arguments pertaining thereto by either the church board or the district superintendent shall be sent to the other party involved. The minute record of a church board appeal shall include the appeal resolution, arguments sustaining it, and the record of the vote taken. If a minister under consideration withdraws his or her name, or if a pastoral candidate is found to be unavailable for consideration, the appeal process should terminate immediately, and the district superintendent and church board shall continue with pastoral arrangements.

119. The call of a pastor who is a licensed minister will terminate at the end of the district assembly if the minister's license is not renewed.

120. The pastor desiring to resign from a pastoral assignment shall first consult with the district superintendent. Following this consultation, the pastor shall provide a written resignation to the church board at least 30 days prior to termination of the pastorate, with a copy to the district superintendent. When the resignation is received by the church board and approved in writing by the district superintendent, the termination date shall be finalized within 30 days.

120.1. The pastor who resigns shall, in cooperation with the secretary of the church board, prepare a correct list of the church membership roll with current addresses. This roll must correspond numerically with the last published district minutes showing deletions and additions for the current year.

121. Upon the recommendation of the church board and approval of the district superintendent, a congregation may elect co-pastors to serve. In this case, the following stipulations will apply:

1. The co-pastors shall work with the church board, under the direction of the district superintendent, to develop a specific plan for the practical division of responsibility and authority.
2. Although the co-pastors are equals in the pastoral office, one person shall be officially designated by the church board as the presiding officer, serving as president of the corporation and chairperson of the church board.
3. The pastoral review process shall be conducted as provided for in *Manual* paragraph 123.

121.1. Upon the resignation or termination of a co-pastor a remaining co-pastor may be appointed by the district superintendent to serve as pastor of the church; provided, however, that within sixty days, the question of the pastoral relationship shall be presented to the church board, at which time the church shall follow the process outlined in paragraph 115.

I. The Church/Pastor Relationship

122. Every year, the pastor and the church board shall conduct a planning session to renew the expectations and goals of the church and the pastor. The written understanding of goals, plans and objectives between the church and the pastor shall be updated. Such written understanding shall be filed with the district superintendent. (115.2, 129.4)

122.1. Pastors and congregations shall seek a clear understanding of each others' expectations and sincerely follow biblical principles to resolve differences in a spirit of reconcil-

iation within the church. Biblical principles for resolving differences in Matthew 18:15-20 and Galatians 6:1-5 include:

1. Seek to resolve differences by discussing them face-to-face.
2. If face-to-face discussion fails to bring resolution, seek the assistance of one or two others in resolving the differences.
3. Bring the differences to the church board only after face-to-face discussion and small-group efforts fail.
4. Christians are obligated to work at resolving differences in a spirit of love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

J. Renewing the Church/Pastor Relationship

123. The Regular Church/Pastoral Review. The church/pastoral relationship shall be reviewed by the church board, meeting with the district superintendent, or an ordained minister or layperson appointed by the district superintendent, within 60 days of the second anniversary of pastoral service and every four years thereafter. The district superintendent, or an ordained minister or layperson appointed by the district superintendent, shall be responsible for scheduling and conducting the review meeting(s) with the church board. The review meeting(s) shall be scheduled in consultation with the pastor. The review meeting(s) shall be conducted in executive session (church board, including pastor). At the discretion of the district superintendent, a portion of the review may be conducted in the absence of the pastor. In case the pastor's spouse is an elected member of the board, he or she shall not participate in the review. In addition, other immediate relatives of the pastor may be recused from the review, per the request of the district superintendent or appointed representative.

A public and/or printed announcement explaining the purpose of this church board meeting shall be conveyed to the congregation the Sunday before the church board and district superintendent meet for the regular church/pastoral review.

At this review meeting, the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship shall be discussed. The objec-

tive is to discover consensus without the need of a formal church board vote. If the church board does not vote to present the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship to the church membership, the church/pastoral relationship will continue.

The church board may vote to present to the church membership the question of continuing the pastoral call. The vote by the board will be by ballot and require a majority of all church board members present to carry.

If the church board votes to present the question of continuing the church/pastoral relationship to the church membership, the matter shall be presented at a church meeting duly called for this purpose and held within 30 days following such action. The question shall be presented, "Shall the present church/pastoral relationship continue?" The vote shall be by ballot and require a majority to carry, except where civil law of a given country requires otherwise.

If the church membership votes to continue the church/pastoral relationship, the church/pastoral relationship shall continue as though such a vote had not been taken; otherwise, the church/pastoral relationship shall end on a date set by the district superintendent not less than 30 nor more than 180 days following the vote. If the pastor chooses not to proceed with the vote of the congregation or chooses not to accept the vote, he or she shall submit a resignation. In such case, the church/pastoral relationship shall end on a date set by the district superintendent not less than 30 nor more than 180 days following the pastor's decision not to proceed with or accept the congregational vote. As a part of the regular review, a report will be made to the district superintendent by the pastor and church board regarding progress toward fulfilling the mission, vision and core values of the church.

123.1. The chairperson of the Board of Tellers shall personally inform the pastor of the results of a pastoral vote before any public announcement is made.

124. Special Church/Pastoral Review. In the interim of regular reviews, a local church board meeting shall become officially a special review only by a majority vote of the

entire elected church board with the district superintendent present or an elder appointed by the district superintendent serving as chairperson. If the district superintendent and the local church board shall be of the opinion that the question of the continuance of the church/pastoral relationship should be submitted to the church, the district superintendent and the local church board by a majority vote by ballot of all its members present, except where civil law of a given country requires otherwise, may order the question submitted for vote at a special church meeting. The question shall be submitted in the following form: "Shall the present church/pastoral relationship be continued?" This special church/pastoral review meeting shall be conducted in executive session (church board, including pastor). At the discretion of the district superintendent, a portion of the review may be conducted in the absence of the pastor. In case the pastor's spouse is an elected member of the board, he or she shall not participate in the review. (113.8)

If by a majority vote by ballot of the church members of voting age present and voting, except where civil law of a given country requires otherwise, the church decides to continue its present church/pastoral relationship, the term of office of the pastor shall continue as though such vote had not been taken.

If, however, the church fails to decide by such vote to continue the present church/pastoral relationship, the term of office of the pastor shall terminate on a date, set by the district superintendent, not more than 180 days following the vote.

If the pastor chooses not to proceed with the vote of the congregation or chooses not to accept the vote, he or she shall submit a resignation. In such case, the church/pastoral relationship shall end on a date set by the district superintendent, not less than 30 nor more than 180 days following the pastor's decision not to proceed with or accept the congregational vote. (123-23.1)

125. Local Church in Crisis. Upon learning that a local church is approaching crisis, the district superintendent with the approval of the District Advisory Board shall have the authority to impanel a committee to review the situation

and implement procedures to avert a crisis. The committee shall consist of two assigned elders and two lay members of the District Advisory Board, and the district superintendent who shall serve as chairperson. (208.3)

125.1. When in the opinion of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and with approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, a local church is declared in crisis—financial, morale, or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the church, *(a)* The question of continued church/pastoral relationship may be submitted to the local congregation by the district superintendent or a member of the District Advisory Board appointed by the district superintendent as if the church board had requested the vote under paragraph 123, or *(b)* the tenure of a pastor and/or church board may be terminated with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, and by the majority vote of the District Advisory Board. The district superintendent, with approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board, may appoint members of the church board for any church that has been declared in crisis. (208.3)

125.2. When in the opinion of the district superintendent, a local church declared in crisis in accordance with 125.1 has fulfilled the interventions set in place and is ready to resume its ministry under normal circumstances, the local church may be declared out of crisis by the majority vote of the District Advisory Board, with approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction. (208.4)

K. The Church Board

127. Membership. Every local church shall have a church board, composed of the pastor, the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent, the president of the Nazarene Youth International (NYI), the president of the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) (or if the president is the pastor's spouse, and chooses not to serve on the board, the vice president may serve; however, if the president is the pastor's spouse and chooses to serve on the board, he or she shall not be a part of the re-

view process of the pastor), the stewards, and the trustees of the church, and the members of the SDMI Board when elected as the Education Committee of the church board by the annual church meeting. There shall be no more than 25 regular members of the church board. Ordained and district licensed ministers unassigned by the district and paid employees of the local church are not eligible to serve on the local church board.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (39, 113.11, 137, 141, 145-147, 151, 153.2, 160.4)

127.1. When the annual meeting of a local church comes during a time of pastoral transition, the local nominating committee, chaired by the district superintendent, may, with the approval of the district superintendent, present the congregation with a resolution, no later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting, to retain the current church board for the upcoming church year. This resolution may be adopted by majority favorable vote by ballot of the church members of voting age present and voting at a duly called special meeting of the church. Should the resolution fail to pass, the church board shall be elected by the annual meeting as usual.

128. Meetings. The church board takes office at the beginning of the church year and shall have at least a bimonthly meeting and shall meet specially when called by the pastor or district superintendent. The church board secretary shall call a special meeting of the board only with the approval of the pastor, or the district superintendent when there is no pastor. Between the annual church meeting and the beginning of the church year, the newly elected church board may meet for organization purposes, at which time it shall elect a church board secretary and a church treasurer as provided hereafter and any other officer that it shall be their duty to elect. (129.19-130)

129. Business. The **business of the church board** shall be:

129.1. To care for the interests of the church and its work, not otherwise provided for, in harmony with the pastor. (156, 416)

129.2. To nominate to the church, after having consulted with the district superintendent, any elder or licensed minister whom it may deem the proper person to become pastor, provided the nomination be approved by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (115, 160.8, 208.10, 222.12)

129.3. To cooperate with an incoming pastor in the development of a written statement of goals and expectations. (115.2)

129.4. To conduct at least once a year, along with the pastor, a planning session for the purpose of updating a clear written understanding of expectations, goals, plans and objectives. (122)

129.5. To arrange for pastoral supply, with approval of the district superintendent, until such time as a pastor shall be regularly called by the church. (209, 422)

129.6. To provide for the development and adoption of an annual budget for the church, NMI, NYI, SDMI, any child-care/schools (birth through secondary) projecting income and expenditures.

129.7. To assign a committee of the board, whose responsibilities include: *(a)* monitoring the church budget, *(b)* reporting to the board on the financial conditions and concerns of the church.

129.8. To determine the amount of compensation the pastor shall receive, and to review it at least once a year. (115.4, 123)

129.9. To provide ways and means for the support of the pastor, the pastoral supply, or any other paid workers of the church; to encourage and support through planning and budgeting the lifelong learning commitment of the pastor and staff. (115.4)

129.10. In order to encourage a healthy pastoral ministry and the lifelong learning of the pastor, the church board, in

consultation with the district superintendent, should provide a sabbatical leave for the pastor following each seven consecutive year of service in one congregation. The timing and duration of the sabbatical shall be determined in consultation with the pastor, church board and district superintendent. It is strongly urged that the pastor's salary continue in full and the church board provide for pulpit supply during the sabbatical period. This topic is to be addressed by the district superintendent as part of the church/pastoral review process that would come after year two and again in year six, once the viability of continuing the relationship has been established. Materials shall be developed and distributed by the Clergy Development office to guide local congregations in establishing and implementing a sabbatical leave policy and procedure. At the church board's discretion, such a program may also be implemented for a member of the pastoral staff.

129.11. To determine the financial support and housing allowance an evangelist should receive and notify the person of such minimum support at the time of the call by the church board.

129.12. To license, or renew the license of, at its discretion, any person who has been recommended by the pastor for *(a)* local minister, or *(b)* lay minister. (402.3, 428.1, 428.3, 813.1)

129.13. To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, any person who desires to receive a certificate for any of the assigned roles of ministry, including all lay and ministerial candidates aspiring to be recognized for ministries beyond the local church, if such recommendation is required by the *Manual*.

129.14. To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, any person who desires the Licensed Minister's Credential or its renewal. (428.5, 429.1)

129.15. To recommend, at its discretion, to the district assembly, upon nomination by the pastor, renewal of deaconess' license in harmony with 406.

129.16. To elect, upon nomination of the Sunday School

and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board, with the approval of the pastor, a director of Children's Ministries International and a director of Adult Ministries International. (145.6)

129.17. To approve the Nazarene Youth International (NYI) president elected by the NYI organization of the local church, as provided in the NYI Charter.

129.18. To approve the selection of the administrators of Nazarene childcare/schools (birth through secondary). (152, 160.1, 208.13, 414.10)

129.19. To elect a secretary, from among the church membership who meets the qualifications for church officers as specified in *Manual* paragraph 39, at the first meeting of the new board, to serve until the close of the church year and until a successor has been elected and qualified. (39, 113.6, 128, 135.1-35.7)

129.20. To elect a treasurer, from among the church membership who meets the qualifications for church officers as specified in paragraph 39, at the first meeting of the new board, to serve until the close of the church year and until a successor has been elected and qualified. No member of the pastor's immediate family (spouse, children, siblings, parents) can serve as the local church treasurer without the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (128, 136.1-36.6)

129.21. To cause careful accounting to be kept of all money received and disbursed by the church, including any childcare/schools (birth through secondary) and Nazarene Missions International (NMI), Nazarene Youth International (NYI), Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI), and make report of the same at its regular monthly meetings and to the annual meeting of the church. (136.3-36.5)

129.22. To provide a committee, no fewer than two members of which shall count and account for all money received by the church.

129.23. To appoint an auditing committee or a committee of independent examiners, or such other qualified persons, that shall audit or examine, to at least the minimum stan-

dard required by national or state law if applicable, or other recognized professional standards, at least annually, the financial records of the treasurer of the church, the Nazarene Youth International (NYI), the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board, Nazarene childcare/schools (birth through secondary), and any other financial records of the church. The pastor shall have access to all records of the local church.

129.24. To provide an Evangelism and Church Membership Committee of no fewer than three persons. (110)

129.25. To function, if advisable, as the SDMI Board in churches of no more than 75 members. (145)

129.26. To appoint a trial committee of five in case written charges are pending against a church member. (504)

129.27. To elect, with the written approval of the district superintendent and upon the nomination of the pastor, such paid associates as the local church may designate. (152, 160-60.1, 208.13)

129.28. To elect a local minister or a licensed minister as an unpaid associate pastor only if approval is given annually in writing by the district superintendent.

129.29. To provide for a long-range planning committee for the church with the pastor as ex-officio chairperson.

129.30. To adopt and implement a plan to reduce the risk that individuals placed in positions of authority within the church will use the position of trust or authority to engage in misconduct. The plan for each local church must take into consideration its own unique circumstances.

130. The church board, together with the pastor, shall follow plans adopted by the General Assembly and agreed to by the district assembly for raising World Evangelism Fund and District Ministries Fund apportionments made to the local church, and shall raise and regularly pay these apportionments. (317.12, 335.8)

131. Meaning of Stewardship. Refer to paragraphs 38-8.5.

132. The church board shall perform the duties of a SDMI Board in a newly organized church until such board has been regularly elected. (145)

132.1. The church board and pastor of the newly organized church shall decide when a Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent will be elected. (129.25, 145, 146)

133. The church board may remove from the membership roll the name of an inactive church member after a period of two years has elapsed from the date when his or her name was declared inactive. (109-9.4, 112.3)

134. The church board may suspend or revoke the license of any locally licensed person.

135. Church Secretary. The **duties of the secretary** of the church board are:

135.1. To record correctly and preserve faithfully the minutes of all church meetings and meetings of the church board, and do whatever else may pertain to the office. Board minutes should identify all voting board members as present or absent to clearly document a quorum. (120.1, 129.19)

135.2. To present to the annual meeting of the church an annual report of the major activities of the local church, including statistics on membership. (113.9)

135.3. To see that official papers, records, and legal documents pertaining to the local church, including deeds, abstracts, insurance policies, loan documents, church membership rolls, historical records, church board minutes, and incorporation papers are held in trust in either fireproof or secure safes on the local church premises, or when feasible, they may be placed in safe deposit facilities in local banks or similar institutions. Access to such shall always be shared with the pastor and church treasurer, and care for such shall be delivered immediately to the church secretary's successor in office.

135.4. To be the secretary of all annual and special church meetings; and to be custodian of the minutes and other papers of such annual and special church meetings. (113.6)

135.5. To certify in writing to the district superintendent the results of the vote from the calling of a pastor and the continuation of the church/pastoral relationship. Such certification shall be made within one week of the vote.

135.6. To send to the district superintendent a copy of the

minutes of all church meetings and meetings of the church board within three days of such meetings when that local church is without a pastor.

135.7. To sign in conjunction with the pastor all conveyances of real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents not otherwise provided for in the *Manual*. (102.3, 103-4.2)

136. Church Treasurer. The **duties of the treasurer** of the church board are:

136.1. To receive all moneys not otherwise provided for, and disburse the same only on order of the church board. (129.21)

136.2. To make monthly remittances of all district funds to the district treasurer, and of all general funds to the general treasurer through the appropriate office, except as otherwise provided. (414.9)

136.3. To keep a correct book record of all funds received and disbursed. (129.21)

136.4. To present a detailed monthly financial report for distribution to the church board. (129.21)

136.5. To present an annual financial report to the annual church meeting. (113.9, 129.21)

136.6. To deliver to the church board the complete treasurer's records at such time as the treasurer shall cease to hold the office.

L. The Stewards

137. The stewards of the church shall be no fewer than three or more than thirteen in number. They shall be elected by ballot, at the annual or a special church meeting, from among the members of the church, to serve for the next church year and until their successors have been elected and qualified. (39, 113.7, 113.11, 127)

138. The **duties of the stewards** are:

138.1. To serve as a church growth committee, unless otherwise provided for, with the responsibilities of outreach, evangelism, and extension, including sponsoring new churches and church-type missions, with the pastor as ex-officio chairperson.

138.2. To provide assistance and support for the needy and distressed. A biblical role of lay leaders is that of ministering in areas of practical service (Acts 6:1-3; Romans 12:6-8). Therefore stewards should offer their time and spiritual gifts in acts of service, administration, encouragement, mercy, visitation, and other ministries.

138.3. To serve, at the discretion of the church board, as the Evangelism and Church Membership Committee as outlined in 110-10.8.

138.4. To assist the pastor in organizing the church so that Christian service opportunities are available to all members. Special attention should be given to the development of ministries toward those of other cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds in the immediate and nearby communities.

138.5. To serve as liaisons to community Christian action and service organizations.

138.6. To give assistance to the pastor in public worship and Christian nurture in the local church.

138.7. To provide the elements for the Lord's Supper, and when requested by the pastor, to assist in the distribution of the same. (34.5, 413.9)

139. A vacancy in the office of steward may be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting. (113.8)

140. The stewards shall constitute the Stewardship Committee, whose duty it shall be to promote the cause of Christian stewardship of life resources in the local church in cooperation with the pastor and the Stewardship Ministries office of the general treasurer. (38-8.5)

M. The Trustees

141. The trustees of the church shall be no fewer than three or more than nine in number. They shall be elected from among the members of the local church to serve for the next church year and until their successors have been elected and qualified. (39, 113.11, 127)

142. In all cases where the civil law requires a specific mode of election of church trustees, that mode shall be strictly followed. (113.4)

142.1. Where no particular mode of election is required by

civil law the trustees shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the local church or at a special meeting duly called for that purpose. (113.7, 113.11)

143. The **duties of the trustees** are:

143.1. To hold the title to church property and manage it as trustees of the local church, where the local church is not incorporated, or where the civil law requires it, or where for other reasons it is deemed best by the district superintendent or the District Advisory Board, subject to the guidance and the restrictions as set forth in 102-4.4.

143.2. To give guidance to the development of the physical facilities and to financial planning, unless the church board has provided otherwise.

144. A vacancy in the office of trustee may be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting. (113.8)

N. The Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board

145. Each local church shall establish a **Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board,** or an **Education Committee** as part of the church board, at the annual church meeting, to be responsible for the Christian education ministries of the church. In churches of 75 members or fewer, the responsibilities may be performed by the church board. Members are: ex-officio the SDMI superintendent (146); the pastor; the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) president; the Nazarene Youth International (NYI) president; Children's Ministries International (CMI) director; Adult Ministries International (AMI) director; and three to nine persons elected from the church membership at the annual church meeting. The members may be elected for staggered terms of two years and until their successors are elected and qualified. When an elected member vacancy occurs, it may be filled at a duly called church meeting. If a church elects an education committee as part of the church board, it shall follow *Manual* requirements for minimum number of stewards and trustees (137, 141). Ex-officio personnel shall be members of the committee, though some may not be members of the church board.

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (39)

The **duties and powers of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board or Education Committee** are:

145.1. To plan, organize, promote, and conduct the ministry of Christian education for the local church. This is to be done subject to the direct care of the pastor, and the leadership of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent, and the direction of the local church board, in keeping with denominational objectives and standards established by the General Board and promoted through the Global Ministries Services Committee and offices of Adult Ministries International (AMI), Nazarene Youth International (NYI), and Children's Ministries International (CMI). These include both curriculum and program-oriented ministries for adults, youth, and children. The Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups, along with the preaching ministry, provide the core of the church's study of Scripture and doctrine. Childcare/Schools (birth through secondary) and annual/special ministries and training, such as Caravan, Vacation Bible Schools, and singles' ministries, provide opportunities through which scriptural doctrines are lived out and integrated into the life of the congregation. (414.15)

145.2. To reach the largest number of unchurched people for Christ and the church, bringing them into the fellowship, teaching the Word of God effectively, and encompassing their salvation; teaching the doctrines of the Christian faith and developing Christlike character, attitudes, and habits; helping to establish Christian homes; preparing believers for membership in the church and equipping them for appropriate Christian ministries.

145.3. To determine the curricula of the various min-

istries, always using Church of the Nazarene materials to form the basis of biblical study and doctrinal interpretation.

145.4. To plan for and organize the total Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) of the local church in keeping with the SDMI Bylaws. (812)

145.5. To nominate to the annual church meeting one or more persons approved by the pastor, for election to the office of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent. The nominations are to be made in a meeting with the incumbent superintendent not present.

145.6. To nominate to the church board persons approved by the pastor, to serve as a director of Children's Ministries International (CMI) and a director of Adult Ministries International (AMI).

145.7. To elect the Children's Ministries International (CMI) and Adult Ministries International (AMI) councils from nominations by the directors of CMI and AMI with approval of the pastor and the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent.

145.8. To elect all age-group Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups supervisors, teachers, and officers who shall be professing Christians, exemplary in life, and in full harmony with the doctrines and polity of the Church of the Nazarene, from nominations by the Nazarene Youth International (NYI) president and the directors of Children's Ministries International (CMI) and Adult Ministries International (AMI). The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent.

145.9. To elect a local director of Continuing Lay Training (CLT), who shall organize, promote, and supervise regular training opportunities for Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) workers and the entire membership of the church. The SDMI Board shall have the option of naming the CLT director as an ex-officio member to this board.

145.10. To hold regular meetings; and to organize, by electing a secretary and other officers considered necessary,

at the beginning of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) year, which shall be the same as the church year (114). The pastor or the SDMI superintendent may call special meetings.

146. The Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Superintendent. The annual church meeting shall elect by majority vote by ballot, of those present and voting, from among its full members, a Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent to serve for one year (39), or until his or her successor is elected. The SDMI Board, with the pastor's approval, may call for an incumbent SDMI superintendent to be elected by a "yes" or "no" vote. A vacancy shall be filled by the local church at a duly called church meeting (113.11, 145.5). The SDMI superintendent, newly elected, shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly (201), the local church board (127), and the SDMI Board (145).

We direct our local churches to elect as church officers active members of the local church who profess the experience of entire sanctification and whose lives bear public witness to the grace of God that calls us to a holy life; who are in harmony with the doctrines, polity, and practices of the Church of the Nazarene; and who support the local church faithfully in attendance and with tithes and offerings. (39)

The **duties and powers of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International superintendent** are:

146.1. To have executive supervision of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) in the local church.

146.2. To administer the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) in keeping with the SDMI Bylaws. (812)

146.3. To promote programs of growth in enrollment, attendance, and leadership training.

146.4. To preside over the regular meetings of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board, or the Education Committee of the church board, and to lead the SDMI Board in performing its duties.

146.5. To submit an annual budget for Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) to the church board.

146.6. To make a monthly report to the church board and to submit a written report to the annual church meeting.

147. Children's Ministries International (CMI)/Adult Ministries International (AMI) Councils and Directors. The work of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) is best organized by age-groups: children, youth, and adults. For each age-group there should be a council responsible to organize and administer the work. Such council is composed of the age-group director and representatives from the Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups and other ministries the church provides for that age-group. The task of the council is to work with the age-group director to plan ministries for that age-group, and to make provisions for the implementation of those plans. All work of the CMI and AMI councils is subject to approval of its director and the SDMI Board.

The **duties of the age-group directors** are:

147.1. To chair the age-group council that he or she directs and to lead the council in organizing, promoting, and coordinating the total Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) for persons within that age-group.

147.2. To give leadership to the appropriate age-group of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance for children, youth, or adults in the local church, in cooperation with the SDMI Board.

147.3. To give leadership for additional Sunday, child-care/schools (birth through secondary), annual and special ministries, evangelism and fellowship activities for the age-group he or she represents.

147.4. To nominate to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board the leadership for the various ministries assigned to his or her age-group, including Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups supervisors, teachers, and officers, with exception of Nazarene

Youth International (NYI) who will nominate youth Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups supervisors, teachers, and officers (39). The nominees shall be approved by the pastor and the SDMI superintendent.

147.5. To obtain the approval of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board before using supplemental curriculum.

147.6. To provide leadership training for age-group workers in cooperation with the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board and the director of Continuing Lay Training.

147.7. To submit an annual budget request to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board and/or church board, and to administer funds in accordance with such budget approval.

147.8. To receive all reports of the various ministries functioning within the age-groups of the local church under his or her direction. A monthly report of all Discipleship Ministries (Sunday School/Extended Ministries Responsibilities/Discipleship/Bible Study) shall be submitted to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent.

147.9. To submit a quarterly calendar of his or her age-group activities to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board to be coordinated with the total SDMI of the local church.

148. Children's Ministries International Council. The Children's Ministries International (CMI) Council is responsible for planning the total Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) for children from birth to age 12 in the local church. The council is composed of at least one Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups representative and the directors of any other children's ministry being offered in the local church, such as: children's church, Caravan, Vacation Bible School, Bible quizzing, missions, Cradle Roll, and any others deemed necessary. The council size will vary with the number of ministries being offered to children in the local church as needs are identified and leadership is available.

The **duties of the Children's Ministries International director** are:

148.1. To perform those duties assigned to all age-group directors in 147.1-47.9.

148.2. To work with the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) Executive Committee of the local church in appointing a children's mission director. The person appointed becomes a member of both the NMI and Children's Ministries International (CMI) councils. Nominees for this position shall be approved by the pastor and the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendent.

149. Adult Ministries International Council. The Adult Ministries International (AMI) Council shall be responsible for planning the total Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) for adults in the local church. The AMI Council is composed of at least one Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups representative and the directors of any other ministry being offered in the local church, such as: marriage and family life, senior adult ministries, single adult ministries, lay ministries, women's ministries, men's ministries, and any others deemed necessary. The council size will vary with the number of ministries being offered to adults in the local church as needs are identified and leadership is available.

The **duties of the Adult Ministries International director** are:

149.1. To perform those duties assigned to all age-group directors in 147.1-47.9.

O. Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council

150. Nazarene youth ministry is organized in the local church under the auspices of Nazarene Youth International (NYI). Local groups are organized under the NYI Charter and the authority of the local church board.

150.1. The local Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall organize itself according to the NYI Local Ministry Plan, which may be adapted in response to local youth ministry needs, consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.

150.2. The local Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall be coordinated by an NYI Council, responsible for planning and organizing ministry for youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults, and collectively casting the vision for local youth ministry. All work of the NYI Council pertaining to Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups is subject to the approval of the SDMI superintendent and SDMI Board.

150.3. The Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council shall be composed of the president and other officers with assigned ministry responsibilities according to local church needs, youth representatives and ministry directors as deemed necessary, and the local pastor and/or youth pastor. NYI Council officers shall be members of the local Church of the Nazarene where they serve. The council shall be responsible to the church board.

150.4. Nazarene Youth International (NYI) officers and council members are elected by the NYI membership. Only those NYI members who are also members of the local Church of the Nazarene shall be entitled to vote for the NYI president.

151. NYI President. The president of the local Nazarene Youth International (NYI) group shall be elected according to the NYI Local Ministry Plan, at the annual NYI meeting by the NYI members present who are also members of the Church of the Nazarene. Nominees shall be approved by the local pastor and church board. The NYI president shall be a member ex-officio of the church board (127), the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board (145), and the district assembly (201). Should the term “president” not effectively communicate in a particular culture, a more appropriate title may be used by vote of the local NYI Council.

The **duties of the NYI president** are:

151.1. To chair the Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council in facilitating the development of youth ministry in the local church.

151.2. To work with the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) president in the development of a missions emphasis for youth.

151.3. To perform those duties for youth Sunday School/ Bible studies/small groups as assigned to all age-group directors in 147.1-47.9.

151.4. To report monthly to the local church board and the annual meeting of the local church. (113.9, 127)

151.5. When a youth pastor is employed in a church, the pastor, in consultation with the church board and Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council, assigns the responsibility for NYI to the youth pastor. In that case, the youth pastor carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to the local NYI president. However, the importance of the NYI president remains in providing lay leadership, support, and representation for local youth ministry. The pastor, youth pastor, and NYI Council work together to define the roles and responsibilities of the two positions and how they work together for the benefit of the church's youth ministry. A youth pastor may not serve as the NYI president. (160.4)

P. Nazarene Childcare/Schools (Birth through Secondary)

152. Nazarene childcare/schools (birth through secondary) may be organized by the local church board(s) after receiving the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and following criteria established by Children's Ministries International/Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International office. The director and school board shall be accountable to and shall submit an annual report to the local church board(s). (129.18, 208.13-8.14, 222.11, 414.15, 415)

152.1. School Closings. In the event a local church should find it necessary to suspend operations of its childcare/school(s), (birth through secondary), it should do so only after consulting with the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board and presenting a financial report.

Q. The Local Nazarene Missions International

153. Upon the authorization of the church board, local organizations of the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) may be formed within any age-group in harmony with the

NMI Constitution approved by the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention and the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board. (811)

153.1. The local Nazarene Missions International shall be a constituent part of the local church and subject to the supervision and direction of the pastor and the church board. (415)

153.2. The president of the local Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be nominated by a committee of three to seven members of the NMI appointed by the pastor, who shall serve as chairperson. This committee shall submit one or more names for the office of president subject to the approval of the church board. The president shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the members (excluding associate) present and voting. The president shall be a member of the local church whose NMI is served, a member ex-officio of the church board (or in churches where the president is the pastor's spouse, the vice president may serve on the church board), and a member of the district assembly held immediately prior to his or her year of office. The president shall present a report to the annual meeting of the local church. (113.9, 114, 123, 127, 201)

154. All funds raised by the local Nazarene Missions International (NMI) for general interests of the Church of the Nazarene shall be applied to the World Evangelism Fund apportionment of the local church with the exception of mission special projects that have been approved by the Ten Percent Committee.

154.1. After primary consideration has been given to the full payment of the World Evangelism Fund, opportunities may be given to make offerings for the support of global missionary work, such contributions to be known as "approved mission specials."

155. Funds for the support of general interests shall be raised in the following manners:

155.1. From gifts and offerings designated for the World Evangelism Fund and general interests.

155.2. From special offerings such as Easter and Thanksgiving.

155.3. No part of the above funds shall be used for local or district expense or charitable purposes.

R. Prohibition of Financial Appeals

156. It shall not be lawful for a local church, its officers, or members, to send appeals to other local churches, their officers, and members, to solicit money or financial assistance for their local church needs or for the interests that they may support. It is provided, however, that such solicitation may be made to local churches and church members located within the bounds of the assembly district in which the solicitor is located, but only on condition that the solicitation be approved in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board.

157. Members of the Church of the Nazarene who are not authorized by the General Board or one of its committees shall not solicit funds for missionary or kindred activities apart from the World Evangelism Fund, from congregations of local churches, or from members of such churches.

S. Use of the Church Name

158. The name of the Church of the Nazarene, any local church, or any corporation or institution that is a part or in any manner affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene, or any part of any such name, shall not be used by any members of the Church of the Nazarene nor any one or more members thereof, or by any corporation, partnership, association, group, or other entity in connection with any activity (whether of a commercial, social, educational, charitable, or other nature) without the prior written approval of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene and the Board of General Superintendents, provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to such activities of the Church of the Nazarene as are authorized by its official *Manual*.

T. Church-sponsored Corporation

159. No local church, local church board, district corporation, district board, nor any two or more members of any of them, acting individually or otherwise, shall directly or indi-

rectly form or become members of any corporation, association, partnership, group, or other entity that promotes, sponsors, encourages, or in any manner engages in any activity (whether of a commercial, social, educational, charitable, or other nature) in which members of the Church of the Nazarene are solicited or in any manner sought as prospective participants, customers, tenants, clients, members, or associates, or in any activity (whether of a commercial, social, educational, charitable, or other nature) that directly or indirectly purports to be sponsored or operated primarily or exclusively by or for the benefit or service of members of the Church of the Nazarene, without the express prior written consent of the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the Board of General Superintendents.

U. Associates in the Local Church

160. There may be those who feel called to prepare themselves for certain vital lay services in the church, either part-time or full-time. The church recognizes the place of such lay workers, and yet it is basically constituted a voluntary institution, with service to God and others the duty and privilege of all its members according to their abilities. When paid associates in the local church, or any subsidiary and/or affiliated corporations of the local congregation, whether ministerial or lay, become necessary for greater efficiency, it must be such as will not devitalize the spirit of free service by all its members or tax the church's financial resources including the payment of all financial apportionments. However, a request may be made in writing for review by the district superintendent and District Advisory Board for exceptions in special cases. (129.27)

160.1. All local paid or unpaid associates who provide specialized ministry within the context of the local church and enter into a relationship of vocational ministry within the church, including directors of childcare/schools (birth through secondary), shall be elected by the church board, having been nominated by the pastor. All nominations must have prior approval in writing by the district superinten-

dent, who shall respond within 15 days after receipt of the request. (160.4, 208.13)

160.2. The employment of such associates shall be for no more than one year and may be renewed upon recommendation of the pastor with the prior written approval of the district superintendent and the favorable vote of the church board. The pastor shall be responsible to conduct an annual review of each staff member. The pastor, in consultation with the church board, may make recommendations for staff development or modifications in job description as indicated by the review. The dismissal of all local associates prior to the end of the employment term (end of fiscal church year) must be by recommendation of the pastor, approval of the district superintendent, and the majority vote of the church board. Notification of dismissal or non-renewal must be given in writing not less than 30 days prior to the termination of employment. (129.27)

160.3. The duties and services of such associates are to be determined and supervised by the pastor. A clear, written statement of responsibilities (job description) shall be made available to such associates within 30 days of the beginning of their responsibility to the local church.

160.4. No paid employee of the church shall be eligible for election to the church board. If a church board member should become a paid employee of the church, he or she shall not remain a member of the church board.

160.5. In times of pastoral transition, the stability, unity, and ongoing ministry of the local church is crucial. Consequently, upon resignation or termination of the pastor, any associates shall also submit their resignations effective concurrently with the pastor. A local church board may request that the district superintendent approve the continued service of any or all associates. This approval, if granted, could continue until 90 days after the new pastor's assumption of duties or until the incoming pastor nominates his or her paid associates for the coming year in harmony with *Manual* paragraph 160. Directors of childcare/schools (birth through secondary) shall submit their resignations effective at the end of the school year in which the new pastor as-

sumes the duties of the office. The chief executive officer of any subsidiary and/or affiliated corporation shall submit his or her resignation at the end of that contractual period in which the new pastor assumes the duties of the office. The incoming pastor may have the privilege of recommending the employment of staff members previously employed.

160.6. Communication with staff members, the church board, and the congregation regarding the effect of 160.5 on staff members at the time of pastoral change shall be the responsibility of the district superintendent. (208.13)

160.7. The pastor of a congregation having approval to function as a local church according to 100.1 shall not be considered a staff member.

160.8. Any person serving as paid staff would be ineligible to be called as pastor to the church of which he or she is a member without approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (115, 129.2, 208.10, 222.12)

CHAPTER II

THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

A. Bounds and Name

200. The General Assembly shall organize the membership of the church into districts.

A district is an entity made up of interdependent local churches organized to facilitate the mission of each local church through mutual support, the sharing of resources, and collaboration.

The bounds and name of a district shall be such as shall be declared by the General Assembly, or by the assembly district involved, with the final approval of the general superintendent or superintendents having jurisdiction. (30)

200.1. The Creation of New Districts. New districts in the Church of the Nazarene may be created by:

1. The division of one district into two or more districts (requires a two-thirds vote of the district assembly);
2. The combination of two or more districts out of which a differing configuration of districts may be created;
3. The formation of a new district in an area not encompassed by any existing district;
4. The merger of two or more districts, or
5. A recommendation to establish a new district shall be submitted to the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction. The district superintendent(s) and District Advisory Board(s) or national board(s) may approve and refer the matter to the district assembly/assemblies for vote with the approval of the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction and the Board of General Superintendents. (30, 200, 200.4)

200.2. Work in the Church of the Nazarene may begin as a pioneer area and lead to the establishment of new districts and district assembly boundaries. Phase 3 districts may emerge as quickly as possible according to the following pattern:

Phase 1. A Phase 1 district shall be designated when opportunity for entry into a new area is presented, within guidelines for strategic development and evangelism. Requests may be made by a regional director, a district through the Regional Advisory Council, or the sponsoring district superintendent and/or District Advisory Board for final approvals by the general superintendent(s) in jurisdiction and the Board of General Superintendents. (200.1, #5)

A Phase 1 district superintendent in regions related to the Global Mission office shall be recommended by the regional director, in consultation with the Global Mission office director, to the general superintendent having jurisdiction who shall appoint. The region shall give guidance to the Phase 1 district regarding resources available for development. In other regions, the district superintendent shall be appointed by the general superintendent in jurisdiction after consultation with the district superintendent(s) and Advisory Board(s) of the sponsoring district(s). (204.2)

When, in the opinion of the field strategy coordinator and regional director, a Phase 1 district in regions related to the Global Mission office, is in crisis—financial, morale or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the district, a district may be declared in crisis with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and in consultation with the Global Mission office director. The regional director, with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, may appoint an interim board for the management of the district and in lieu of all existing boards, until the next regularly scheduled district assembly. On those districts not served by a regional director and Regional Advisory Council, the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, may make such determination.

Phase 2. A Phase 2 district may be designated when a sufficient number of fully organized churches and ordained ministers, and a district infrastructure of adequate maturity exists to recommend such designation.

Such designation will be by the Board of General Superintendents upon recommendation of the general superinten-

dent in jurisdiction after consultation with the Global Mission office director, regional director, and other individuals and boards involved in the appointment of the district superintendent. A district superintendent will be elected or appointed.

Quantifiable guidelines would be a minimum of 10 organized churches, 500 full members, and 5 ordained ministers, and a minimum of 50% of district administration expense shall be generated by district ministries fund income at the time of designation. A District Advisory Board or national board may request the general superintendent in jurisdiction for an exception to these criteria. (204.2)

When, in the opinion of the field strategy coordinator and regional director, a Phase 2 district in regions related to the Global Mission office, is in crisis—financial, morale or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the district, a district may be declared in crisis with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and in consultation with the Global Mission office director. The regional director, with the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, may appoint an interim board for the management of the district and in lieu of all existing boards, until the next regularly scheduled district assembly. On those districts not served by a regional director and Regional Advisory Council, the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, may make such determination.

Phase 3. A Phase 3 district may be declared when a sufficient number of fully organized churches, and ordained ministers, and members exist to warrant such designation. Leadership, infrastructure, budgetary responsibility, and doctrinal integrity must be demonstrated. A Phase 3 district must be able to shoulder these burdens and share the challenges of the Great Commission within the global scope of an international church.

Such designation will be by the Board of General Superintendents upon recommendation of the general superintendent in jurisdiction after consultation with the Global Mission office director, regional director, and other individuals

and boards involved in the appointment of the district superintendent. (203.13) A district superintendent will be selected in accordance with *Manual* provisions.

Quantifiable criteria include a minimum of 20 organized churches, 1,000 full members, and 10 ordained ministers. A District Advisory Board or national board may request to the general superintendent in jurisdiction for an exception to these criteria.

A Phase 3 district must be 100% self-supporting in regard to district administration.

Phase 3 districts are an integral part of their respective regions. In regions having a regional director, the general superintendent in jurisdiction may enlist the assistance of the regional director to facilitate communication with and supervision of the district.

When in the opinion of a general superintendent in jurisdiction, a district is in crisis—financial, morale, or otherwise—and this crisis seriously affects the stability and future of the district, a district may be declared in crisis with the approval of the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board Executive Committee. The general superintendent in jurisdiction, with approval of the Board of General Superintendents and the Executive Committee of the General Board may take the following action: (1) remove the district superintendent; (2) appoint an interim board for the management of the district in lieu of all existing boards, until the next regularly scheduled district assembly; and (3) initiate such special interventions as may be necessary to restore the district's health and mission effectiveness. (307.9, 322)

200.3. Criteria for District Division or District Boundary Changes. A proposal for district development or district boundary changes developed by a regional office, a national board, or a District Advisory Board may be presented to the general superintendent in jurisdiction. Such a plan should take into consideration:

1. That the proposed new districts have population centers that justify the creation of such districts;

2. That lines of communication and transportation are available to facilitate the work of the districts;
3. That a sufficient number of mature ordained ministers and lay leaders are available for the work of the district;
4. That the sponsoring districts will have, wherever possible, sufficient district ministries fund income, sufficient membership and organized churches to maintain their Phase 3 district status;

200.4. Mergers. Two or more Phase 3 districts may be merged upon two-thirds favorable vote by each of the district assemblies involved, provided: The merger shall have been recommended by the respective District Advisory Boards, (and national board{s} where applicable), and approved in writing by the general superintendents in jurisdiction of the districts involved.

The merger and all pertinent related matters shall be finalized at a time and place determined by the district assemblies involved, and the respective general superintendents in jurisdiction.

The organization thus created will combine the assets and liabilities of the respective districts. (200.1)

Phase 1 and Phase 2 districts may be merged in accordance with provisions for new district formation outlined in paragraph 200.2.

200.5. If any or all of the district assemblies involved fail to act, or if the actions of the several district assemblies are in disagreement, the recommendation may be submitted to the next General Assembly for action, if requested by a two-thirds majority of the affected District Advisory Boards.

200.6. A district superintendent may use zone facilitators or mission area directors to assist in:

1. Building a sense of community and camaraderie among the pastors of that zone or mission area;
2. Promoting the cause of Christ by encouraging and strategizing for ministerial development, church growth, evangelism, starting and restarting churches;
3. Carrying out specific assignments on behalf of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board; and

4. Serving as a communications bridge between the local congregations and the district.

B. Membership and Time of Meeting

201. Membership. The district assembly shall be composed of all assigned elders (431-31.3, 432-32.1, 435.9); all assigned deacons (430-30.4, 435.9); all assigned licensed ministers (429.8); all retired assigned ministers (433-33.1); the district secretary (216.2); the district treasurer (219.2); chairpersons of standing district committees reporting to the district assembly; any lay presidents of Nazarene institutions of higher education, whose local church membership is on the district; the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) chairperson (238.2); the district age-group ministries international directors (children and adult); the District SDMI Board; the president of the District Nazarene Youth International (NYI) (239.4); the president of the District Nazarene Missions International (NMI) (240.2); the newly elected superintendent or vice superintendent of each local SDMI Board (146); the newly elected president or vice president of each local NYI (151); the newly elected president or vice president of each local NMI (153.2); or an appropriately elected alternate may represent the NMI, NYI, and SDMI organizations in the district assembly; those serving in assigned roles of ministry according to 402-25.1; the lay members of the District Advisory Board (221.4); lay career missionaries whose local church membership is on the district; all retired assigned lay career missionaries whose local church membership is on the district; and the lay delegates from each local church in the assembly district. (30, 113.14, 201.1-1.2)

201.1. Local churches in districts of fewer than 5,000 full church members shall be entitled to representation in the district assembly as follows: two lay delegates from each local church of 50 or fewer full church members, and one additional lay delegate for each successive 50 full church members and the final major part of 50 full church members. (30, 113.14, 201)

201.2. Local churches in districts of 5,000 or more full

church members shall be entitled to representation in the district assembly as follows: one lay delegate from each local church of 50 or fewer full church members, and one additional lay delegate for each successive 50 full church members and the final major part of 50 full church members. (30, 113.14, 201)

202. Time. The district assembly shall be held annually, at the time appointed by the general superintendent having jurisdiction, and in the place designated by the District Advisory Board or arranged for by the district superintendent.

202.1. Nominating Committee. Prior to the convening of the district assembly, the district superintendent in consultation with the District Advisory Board shall appoint a nominating committee to serve the district assembly; this committee may prepare nominations for the usual committees and offices in advance of the convening of the district assembly. (212.2)

C. Business of the District Assembly

203. Rules of Order. Subject to the applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, the meetings and proceedings of the members of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated and controlled according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (40)

203.1. The **business of the district assembly** shall be:

203.2. To hear and receive an annual report of the district superintendent which summarizes the ministry of the district including newly organized churches.

203.3. To hear or receive reports from all ordained and licensed ministers serving as pastors or commissioned evangelists; and to consider the character of all elders, deacons, and deaconesses. By vote of the district assembly the record of written reports received by the secretary may be accepted in place of oral reports of all other elders, deacons, deaconesses, and licensed ministers not engaged in active service, and those ministers having district certificates for all roles of ministry in 402-25.1. (419, 429.8, 435.9)

203.4. To license as licensed ministers, after careful examination, persons who have been recommended by church boards or the District Advisory Board and who may be judged to be called to the ministry and to renew such license upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (129.14, 428.5, 429.1, 429.3)

203.5. To renew as licensed deaconesses, after careful examination, persons who have been recommended by church boards and who may be judged to be called to the office of deaconess upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (129.15)

203.6. To elect to the order of elder, or to the order of deacon, persons judged to have fulfilled all the requirements for such orders of ministry upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (430.3, 431.3)

203.7. To recognize the orders of ministry and credentials of persons coming from other denominations who may be judged qualified and desirable for placement in the Church of the Nazarene upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (429.2, 432-32.2)

203.8. To receive, by transfer from other districts, persons having ministerial credentials, members of the clergy, and those having commissions for continuing ministry roles, in harmony with 402, 406-9.1, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board, who may be judged as desirable for membership in the district assembly upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (228.9-28.10, 434-34.2)

203.9. To issue a transfer of members of the clergy, and those having commissions for continuing ministry roles according to 402, 406-9.1, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board, who desire to transfer to another district upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board. (228.9-28.10, 434-34.1)

203.10. To commission or register for one year those persons deemed qualified for the roles of ministry named and defined in 402-25.1 upon favorable recommendation of the Ministerial Credentials Board.

203.11. To elect, by two-thirds favorable vote, by ballot, an

elder to the office of district superintendent, to serve until 30 days following the final adjournment of the second district assembly following his or her election and until a successor is elected or appointed and qualified. The procedure for re-election of a district superintendent shall be by a "yes" or "no" ballot vote. No elder shall be considered eligible for election to this office who has at any time surrendered his or her credential for disciplinary reasons. No superintendent shall be elected or reelected following his or her 70th birthday.

203.12. After a district superintendent of a Phase 2 or Phase 3 district (200.2) has served a district for at least two assembly years, the district assembly may reelect said superintendent for a period of four years subject to the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The procedure for election to an extended term of office shall be by a two-thirds favorable "yes" or "no" ballot.

203.13. In case the general superintendent and the officers of the district, namely, the District Advisory Board, chairperson of the District SDMI Board, the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary, and the district treasurer, shall be of the opinion that the services of the district superintendent should not continue beyond the current year, the general superintendent having jurisdiction and the district officers may order the question submitted for a vote of the district assembly. The question shall be submitted in the following form: "Shall the present district superintendent be continued in office beyond this district assembly?"

If the district assembly, by a two-thirds vote by ballot, decides to continue the district superintendent in office, he or she shall continue to serve as though such vote had not been taken.

If, however, the district assembly fails to decide by such vote to continue the district superintendent in office, his or her term of office shall terminate 30-180 days following the close of that district assembly, with the date to be determined by the general superintendent in jurisdiction in consultation with the officers of the district. (204.2, 206)

203.14. To elect, by ballot, up to three assigned ordained ministers and up to three laypersons to the District Adviso-

ry Board, to serve for a term not to exceed four years, as determined by the district assembly, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

However, when the district exceeds a total membership of 5,000, it may elect one additional assigned ordained minister and one additional layperson for each successive 2,500 members and the final major part of 2,500 members. (221)

203.15. To elect a District Ministerial Credentials Board of not less than 5 nor more than 15 assigned ordained ministers, one of whom shall be the district superintendent, to serve for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. This board shall meet prior to the district assembly to consider all matters subject to its authority and, insofar as is possible, to complete its work prior to the district assembly. (226-28.10)

203.16. To elect a District Ministerial Studies Board of five or more assigned ordained ministers, to serve for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. (229)

203.17. To facilitate greater flexibility on districts in the use of the most appropriate persons for specific assignments in preparing candidates for ordination, districts may elect the total number necessary to serve on both the District Ministerial Credentials Board and the District Ministerial Studies Board as a District Board of Ministry.

At the first meeting of this District Board of Ministry, the district superintendent may organize the group into a Ministerial Credentials Board and a Ministerial Studies Board, a Rehabilitation Committee, and any other committees that may be deemed wise. (226, 229)

203.18. To elect a District Church Properties Board in keeping with provisions of 233. (204.1)

203.19. To elect at its discretion either or both of the following: (1) a District Evangelism Board of no less than six members including the district superintendent, (2) a district director of evangelism. The persons elected shall serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (204.1, 212)

203.20. To elect a District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board in harmony with the

procedure stated in 237, to serve until their successors are elected and qualified. (204.1, 212)

203.21. To elect a District Assembly Finance Committee of equal lay and assigned minister representation to serve for a term not to exceed four years, as determined by the district assembly, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The district superintendent and district treasurer shall be members ex-officio. (235-35.3)

203.22. To elect a District Court of Appeals, consisting of three assigned ordained ministers, including the district superintendent, and two laypersons, to serve for a term not to exceed four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. (509)

203.23. To elect, by ballot, at a session within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly, or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary, all of the lay delegates and all but one of the ministerial delegates, since one shall be the district superintendent. Every Phase 3 district assembly shall be entitled to representation at the General Assembly by an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates. The district superintendent at the time of the General Assembly shall be one of the ministerial delegates, and the remaining ministerial delegates shall be ordained ministers. In case the district superintendent is unable to attend, or in case there has been a vacancy and the new district superintendent has not been appointed, the properly elected alternate shall be seated in the district superintendent's place. The Nominating Committee shall submit a nominating ballot containing at least six times the number of delegates eligible from that district, in each category, ministerial and lay. From these nominees, the number of names for the electing ballot will be reduced to no more than three times the number to be elected. Then, the allowed delegates and alternates shall be elected by plurality vote, according to paragraphs 301.1-1.3. Each district assembly may elect alternates not to exceed twice the number of delegates. In situations where travel visas are problematic, a district assembly may authorize the District Advisory Board to select additional alternates. Delegates elected are

expected to attend faithfully all meetings of the General Assembly from opening to closing unless providentially prevented. (31.1-1.3, 301.1-1.3, 303, 332.1)

203.24. To establish, at its discretion, a system of associate membership for its local churches, but associate members must not be counted as full members for purposes of representation. (108)

203.25. To provide for the auditing of all district treasurers' books annually, to at least the minimum standard required by national or state law if applicable, or other recognized professional standards, either by a District Auditing Committee, a committee of independent examiners, or by such other appropriately qualified persons duly elected by the District Advisory Board. (222.19)

203.26. To present to the General Assembly, through the district secretary, a full official journal for the preceding quadrennium, to be preserved and filed. (205.3-5.4, 217.7)

203.27. To grant a retired relation to a minister upon recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board. Any change in status must be approved by the district assembly, upon recommendation by the District Ministerial Credentials Board. (228.8, 433)

203.28. To consider and care for the entire work of the Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of the assembly district.

203.29. To transact any other business pertaining to the work, not otherwise provided for, in harmony with the spirit and order of the Church of the Nazarene.

204. Other Rules Pertaining to the District Assemblies. The district assembly may authorize, where civil law permits, the District Advisory Board to incorporate. After incorporation as above provided, the District Advisory Board shall have power, on its own resolution, to purchase, own, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, hypothecate, lease, and convey any property, real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation. (222.5)

204.1. As far as possible membership of district boards and committees shall be equal between ministers and laypersons unless specifically provided otherwise by the *Manual*.

204.2. The **district superintendents of Phase 1 and Phase 2 districts** shall be chosen in accordance with *Manual* paragraph 200.2. A Phase 2 district may revert to Phase 1 district status until such time as it can meet the requirements for Phase 2 status.

204.3. When the presiding officer of a district assembly deems that it is impossible to convene or continue with the business of the district assembly and therefore postpones, cancels or adjourns the district assembly, the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, shall appoint all district officers not elected prior to the adjournment of the district assembly, to serve for a period of one year.

D. The District Assembly Journal

205. The journal shall be the record of the regular proceedings of the district assembly.

205.1. The journal must be prepared in a format permitted by the General Secretary's office. Paper copies may be printed locally.

205.2. Separate items of business shall be placed in separate paragraphs.

205.3. The journal should be edited carefully with the view to its examination by the General Assembly. (203.26, 217.7)

205.4. The full official journal for each quadrennium shall be preserved and filed with the district and the General Assembly files. (217.5, 217.7)

205.5. The journal shall be arranged as far as possible according to the table of contents prepared by the general secretary in consultation with the Board of General Superintendents. The table of contents shall be furnished to the district secretary prior to the convening of the district assembly.

205.6. The journal shall contain not only the assignment of pastors to local churches but also all regular and special engagements entered into by ministerial and lay members of the district assembly who are engaged in any line of denominational service that may entitle them to consideration if applying for benefits from the Pensions Board having the

responsibility for the pensions and benefits program in which that district participates. (115)

E. The District Superintendent

206. The initial term of office for a district superintendent who is elected at a district assembly begins 30 days after the adjournment of the district assembly. It runs for two full assembly years ending 30 days after the adjournment of the assembly that marks the second anniversary of the election. At the time of said assembly the superintendent may be reelected (203.11-3.12) or a successor elected or appointed and qualified. The initial term of office for a district superintendent who is appointed by the general superintendent in jurisdiction begins at the time of the appointment, includes the remainder of the church year in which the superintendent was appointed, and extends through the two following church years. The term of office ends 30 days after the adjournment of the assembly that marks the end of the second full assembly year of service. At said assembly the superintendent may be elected (203.11-3.12) for another term, or a successor will be elected or appointed and qualified. No elder employed by the district office shall be eligible to be elected or appointed to the office of district superintendent on the district where they are serving without the approval of the District Advisory Board and the general superintendent in jurisdiction (in harmony with paragraph 115). (203.11-3.13)

207. If for any cause a vacancy shall occur in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the general superintendents, jointly and severally, may fill the vacancy, upon consultation with a committee composed of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District SDMI Board, the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary and the district treasurer. Consultation shall include an invitation for the committee, as a whole, to submit names for consideration in addition to those names brought forward by the general superintendent in jurisdiction. (307.8)

207.1. The office of a Phase 1 or Phase 2 district superintendent may be declared vacant with cause upon the recommendation of the general superintendent having jurisdic-

tion. The office of district superintendent in a Phase 3 district may be declared vacant upon a two-thirds majority vote of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District SDMI Board, the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. (321)

207.2. In the event of temporary incapacitation of an incumbent district superintendent, the general superintendent having jurisdiction, in consultation with the District Advisory Board, may appoint a qualified elder to serve as interim district superintendent. The question of incapacitation shall be determined by the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board. (307.8)

207.3. Upon the resignation or termination of the district superintendent, the staff members of the district office, the chief executive officer or any subsidiary and/or affiliated corporations of the district, paid and unpaid, such as assistant superintendent and office secretary, shall submit their resignations effective concurrently with the final date of the district superintendency. However, one or more of the staff members may remain with the written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board, but not longer than the date of the new superintendent's assumption of duties. (241.3)

207.4. After consultation with the District Advisory Board and the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, the newly elected or appointed district superintendent may have the privilege of recommending the employment of staff members previously employed. (241.3)

208. The **duties of a district superintendent** are:

208.1. To organize, recognize, and superintend local churches within the bounds of his or her assembly district, subject to the approval of the general superintendent having jurisdiction. (100, 435.12)

208.2. To be available to the local churches in his or her assembly district as needed, and as necessary meet with the church board to consult with reference to spiritual, financial, and pastoral matters, giving such helpful advice and assistance as the superintendent may deem proper.

208.3. In circumstances where the district superintendent

has determined that a church is in an unhealthy, declining situation, the continuation of which threatens the viability of the church and its mission effectiveness, the district superintendent may pursue contact with the pastor or the pastor and the church board to evaluate the circumstances. Every effort shall be made to work with the pastor and church board toward resolution of issues that have led to the circumstances which are impeding mission effectiveness.

If the district superintendent, after working with the pastor and/or board, concludes that further intervention is necessary, he or she may, with the approval of the District Advisory Board and the general superintendent in jurisdiction, take appropriate action to address the situation. Such action(s) may include, but are not limited to: (1) the removal of the pastor; (2) the dissolution of the church board; (3) the initiation of such special interventions as may be necessary to restore the church's health and mission effectiveness.

208.4. When in the opinion of the district superintendent, a local church declared in crisis in accordance with 124.1 has fulfilled the interventions set in place and is ready to resume its ministry under normal circumstances, the local church may be declared out of crisis by the majority vote of the District Advisory Board, with approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

208.5. To schedule and conduct, with each local church board, the regular church/pastoral review according to the provisions of 123.

208.6. To have special supervision of all the church-type missions of the Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of his or her assembly district.

208.7. To nominate to the District Advisory Board someone to fill a vacancy, should one occur in the office of district secretary. (216.1)

208.8. To nominate to the District Advisory Board someone to fill a vacancy, should one occur in the office of district treasurer. (219.1)

208.9. To appoint a district chaplaincy director to promote and amplify holiness evangelism through the specialized ministry of chaplaincy. (236)

208.10. To consult with the church board concerning the nomination of an elder or a licensed minister to pastor a local church and to approve or disapprove such nomination, and with approval of the District Advisory Board. (115, 129.2, 160.8, 222.12)

208.11. To schedule a special church/pastoral review (124), within 90 days of the request of a church board for such review, on the continuance of the church/pastoral relationship.

208.12. To approve or disapprove the granting of license to any member of the Church of the Nazarene who may request local minister's license or renewal of local minister's license from the church board of a local church not having an elder as pastor. (428.1, 428.3)

208.13. To approve or disapprove in writing requests from the pastor and the local church board to have or to employ any unpaid associate pastors or paid local associates (such as associate pastors; ministers or directors of Christian education, children, youth, adult, music, childcare/schools {birth through secondary}, etc.). The primary criteria for the district superintendent's decisions to approve or disapprove, in concept, the hiring of paid staff will be the willingness and ability of the church to meet its local, district, and general obligations. It is the pastor's responsibility to screen and select pastoral associates. However, the district superintendent shall have the right to disapprove the nominee. (129.27, 160-60.8)

208.14. To approve or disapprove, with the District Advisory Board, requests from local churches to operate Christian childcare/school (birth through secondary) ministries. (152, 222.11, 415)

208.15. To execute and sign, along with the secretary of the District Advisory Board, all legal documents of the district. (222.5)

208.16. To nominate to the District Advisory Board and to supervise any paid assistants on the district. (241)

208.17. To appoint pastors in keeping with 117.

208.18. The district superintendent may, with the approval of the District Advisory Board, appoint the members of the church board (stewards, trustees), the chairperson of

the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board, and other church officers (secretary, treasurer) if a church has been organized for less than five years, or had less than 35 voting members in the previous annual church meeting, or is receiving regular financial assistance from the district, or has been declared in crisis. The total number of members of such board shall not be less than three. (117, 125)

208.19. To cause to be investigated written accusations against a minister in his or her assembly district, according to 505-5.3.

208.20. The district superintendent shall schedule and conduct a self-assessment and review in consultation with the tenured evangelist in accordance with paragraph 408.4.

209. The district superintendent, with the consent of the church board, may appoint a pastoral supply to fill a vacancy in the office of pastor until the next district assembly. Such appointed pastoral supply shall be subject to removal by the district superintendent when his or her services are not satisfactory to the church board and the local church. (129.5, 422, 428.6)

209.1. The district superintendent, with the consent of the church board and the District Advisory Board, may appoint an interim pastor to fill a vacancy in the office of pastor, or until a permanent pastor can be called. The district superintendent shall also be authorized to extend the time of service of the interim pastor as he or she deems it necessary in consultation with the church board. The interim pastor would be authorized to fulfill all responsibilities of the pastor. The interim pastor would also serve as a delegate from that church to the district assembly, if said pastor holds membership on the district of interim assignment.

Such an assigned interim pastor is subject to the authority of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board at all times. The interim pastor shall also be subject to removal by the district superintendent in consultation with the church board. (423)

210. The district superintendent is authorized to perform for a local church within the bounds of his or her assembly

district all the functions of pastor when that local church is without a pastor or pastoral supply. (412)

210.1. The district superintendent may preside at the annual, or a special meeting of a local church, or appoint a surrogate for such duty. (113.5)

211. If for any reason the general superintendent having jurisdiction fails to be present or to appoint a representative to be present in his or her stead at the district assembly, the district superintendent shall call the district assembly to order and shall preside until other provision may be made by the district assembly. (307.5)

212. The district superintendent may fill vacancies in the District Assembly Finance Committee (203.21), the District Auditing Committee (203.25), the District Ministerial Credentials Board (226.1), the District Ministerial Studies Board (229.1), the District Evangelism Board or the district director of evangelism (232), the District Church Properties Board (233), the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board (237), the District Court of Appeals (509), and other district boards and standing committees where such are not provided in the *Manual* or by assembly action.

212.1. The district superintendent may appoint all chairpersons, secretaries and members of the district boards and standing committees where such are not provided in the *Manual* or by assembly action.

212.2. The district superintendent, in consultation with the District Advisory Board, shall appoint a nominating committee to prepare nominations for the usual committees and offices in advance of the district assembly. (202.1)

213. The district superintendent shall be ex-officio chairperson of the District Advisory Board (221.2) and the District Ministerial Credentials Board (227.1).

213.1. The district superintendent shall be a member ex-officio of all elected and standing boards and committees on the district he or she serves. (203.20-3.21, 233, 237, 810, 811)

214. All official acts of the district superintendent shall be subject to review and revision by the district assembly, and subject to appeal.

214.1. The district superintendent shall always show due regard for the advice of the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the Board of General Superintendents with regard to pastoral arrangements and other matters relating to the office of the district superintendent.

F. The District Secretary

216. The district secretary, elected by the District Advisory Board, shall serve for a period of one to three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (222.17)

216.1. If the district secretary shall cease to serve, for any cause, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the District Advisory Board shall elect his or her successor upon nomination by the district superintendent. (208.7)

216.2. The district secretary shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly. (201)

217. The **duties of the district secretary** are:

217.1. To record correctly and preserve faithfully all minutes of the district assembly.

217.2. To record correctly and preserve all statistics of the district.

217.3. To forward all statistical charts to the general secretary to be audited before their publication in the official journal. (326.6)

217.4. To be custodian of all documents of the district assembly, and turn them over promptly to his or her successor.

217.5. To preserve and file the full official journal for each quadrennium. (205.4)

217.6. To forward sufficient copies of the printed journal of each district assembly to the Global Ministry Center for distribution among the general officers and general boards of the Church of the Nazarene.

217.7. To present to the General Assembly, for the district assembly, the full official journal for the preceding quadrennium to be preserved and filed. (203.26, 205.3-5.4)

217.8. To do whatever else may pertain to his or her office.

217.9. To refer all items of business coming to him or her during the year to the proper assembly committee or standing board.

218. The district secretary may have as many assistants as the district assembly shall elect.

G. The District Treasurer

219. The district treasurer, elected by the District Advisory Board, shall serve for a period of one to three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (222.16)

219.1. If the district treasurer shall cease to serve, for any cause, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, the District Advisory Board shall elect his or her successor upon nomination by the district superintendent. (208.8)

219.2. The district treasurer shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly. (201)

220. The **duties of the district treasurer** are:

220.1. To receive all such moneys from his or her district as may be designated by the General Assembly, or by the district assembly, or by the District Advisory Board, or as the needs of the Church of the Nazarene may require, and disburse the same according to the direction and policies of the district assembly and/or the District Advisory Board.

220.2. To keep a correct record of all moneys received and disbursed and to render a monthly report to the district superintendent for distribution to the District Advisory Board and an annual report to the district assembly, to which he or she shall be amenable.

H. The District Advisory Board

221. The District Advisory Board shall be composed of the district superintendent ex-officio and up to three assigned ordained ministers and up to three laypersons elected by ballot by the district assembly annually or for terms not to exceed four years, to serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. However, their terms of service may be staggered by electing a proportion of the board annually.

When a district exceeds a total membership of 5,000, it may elect one additional assigned ordained minister and one additional layperson for each successive 2,500 members or the final major part of 2,500 members. (203.14)

221.1. A vacancy on the District Advisory Board may be filled by the remaining members thereof.

221.2. The district superintendent shall be ex-officio chairperson of the District Advisory Board.

221.3. The board shall elect from its membership a secretary, who shall carefully record all actions of the board and promptly transmit them to his or her successor.

221.4. The lay members of the District Advisory Board shall be ex-officio members of the district assembly, ex-officio members of the District SDMI Convention, ex-officio members of the District NMI Convention, and ex-officio members of the District NYI Convention. (201, 221)

222. The **duties of the District Advisory Board** are:

222.1. To set the date for the beginning and closing of the statistical year in harmony with the provisions of 114.1.

222.2. To give information to and consult with the district superintendent respecting the ministers and local churches of the assembly district. (417)

222.3. To appoint an investigating committee consisting of three or more assigned ordained ministers and not less than two laypersons in case an accusation is filed against a member of the clergy. (505-5.3)

222.4. To select a trial court in case charges are made against a member of the clergy. (505.5-5.6)

222.5. To incorporate, where civil law permits and when authorized by the district assembly. After incorporation, as above provided, the District Advisory Board shall have power, on its own resolution, to purchase, own, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, hypothecate, lease, and convey any property, real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the corporation. The district superintendent and the secretary of the District Advisory Board, or other persons authorized by the District Advisory Board, incorporated or not incorporated, shall execute and sign all conveyances on real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents of the District Advisory Board. (204)

222.6. In areas where the civil law does not permit such incorporation, then the district assembly may elect the Dis-

trict Advisory Board as district trustee with power, on its own resolution, to purchase, own, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, hypothecate, lease, and convey any property, real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of carrying on its work in the district. (102.6, 106.2, 222.5)

222.7. The District Advisory Board, in areas where it is possible for local churches to incorporate, shall, with the advice of competent legal counsel, provide pattern incorporation forms adequate for the areas of its district. This pattern incorporation form shall always include the provisions set forth in 102-2.5.

222.8. To serve in an advisory capacity to the district superintendent in his or her supervision of all the departments, boards, and committees of the district.

222.9. To submit to the Board of General Superintendents any plans proposed for the creation of a district center. Such plans shall require the approval in writing of the Board of General Superintendents before they are put in operation. (319)

222.10. To recommend the renewal of license for the licensed minister serving as pastor. (429.5)

222.11. To approve or disapprove requests from local churches to operate Christian childcare/school (birth through secondary) ministries. At the discretion of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, a District Christian Childcare/Schools (birth through secondary) Committee may be established. Its function shall be to recommend policy, procedures, and philosophy to the District Advisory Board for application in the local church childcare/school (birth through secondary), and to help establish, support, and monitor such childcare/schools (birth through secondary). (152, 208.14, 415)

222.12. To approve or disapprove a request from a local church to consider a person who is an ordained elder or a licensed minister, and who is serving as a paid associate at and is a member of that local church, to be called as pastor to that local church. This decision will be made in consultation with the district superintendent. (115, 129.2, 160.8, 208.10)

222.13. To elect or dismiss any paid assistants employed by the district. (241-41.1)

222.14. To act, in consultation with the district superintendent, as a finance committee between assemblies with authority to adjust operational budgets as deemed necessary and report the same to the district assembly. (220.1)

222.15. To protect all district property, real or personal, including all equity therein, from being diverted to any personal or corporate use other than for the Church of the Nazarene. (102.4, 106.5, 204)

222.16. To elect a district treasurer, to serve for a period of one to three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (219)

222.17. To elect a district secretary, to serve for a period of one to three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualified. (216)

222.18. To certify the withdrawal or attempted withdrawal of any local church from the Church of the Nazarene for the purpose of implementing the transfer of title to real property as provided for in paragraph 106.2.

222.19. If required, pursuant to paragraph 203.25, to elect a District Auditing Committee to serve until the adjournment of the following district assembly. (203.25)

222.20. To give an annual report to the district assembly summarizing the activity of the work of the board including the number of convened meetings.

223. The District Advisory Board may issue a transfer of membership to a member of the clergy, a minister of Christian education (409), or a deaconess (406), who desires to transfer to another district assembly, before the meeting of the district assembly in which such person's membership is held. Such transfers may be accepted by the receiving District Advisory Board, granting to those transferred full rights and privileges of membership on the district on which it is received. The receiving district assembly shall have final approval of all such Advisory Board transfer receptions upon favorable recommendation by the Ministerial Credentials Board. (203.8-3.9, 228.9-28.10, 434-34.2)

223.1. The District Advisory Board may, upon request, is-

sue a Certificate of Commendation (813.3) to a member of the district assembly who wishes to unite with another denomination.

224. The District Advisory Board, with the approval of the district superintendent, may suspend a licensed deaconess when it is required for the good of the church, after a conference with the church board of the local church of which the licensed deaconess is a member, and after giving her a fair hearing.

225. In case a licensed or ordained minister presenting a credential from another denomination shall, during the interim of sessions of the district assembly, make application to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, his or her credential shall be examined by the District Advisory Board. Only with the favorable recommendation of the District Advisory Board shall such applicant be received into membership in the local church. (417, 429.2, 432)

I. The District Ministerial Credentials Board

226. The District Ministerial Credentials Board shall be composed of not less than 5 nor more than 15 assigned ordained ministers, one of whom shall be the district superintendent. They shall serve for a period of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. However, their terms of service may be staggered by electing a proportion of the board annually. (203.15)

226.1. A vacancy occurring in the Ministerial Credentials Board in the interim of the district assemblies may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. (212)

227. Following the election of the Ministerial Credentials Board the district superintendent shall call a meeting of the board for organization as follows:

227.1. The district superintendent shall serve as chairperson ex-officio of the board; however, upon his or her request the board may elect an acting chairperson to serve in such relationship until the close of the next district assembly. (213)

227.2. The board shall elect from its membership a permanent secretary who shall provide a suitable system of

records, at the expense of the district assembly, which shall be the property of the district. The secretary shall carefully record all actions of the board and faithfully preserve them along with such other records as shall be relevant to the work of the board and promptly transmit them to his or her successor.

228. The **duties of the Ministerial Credentials Board** are:

228.1. To carefully examine and evaluate all persons who have been properly presented to the district assembly for election to the order of elder, the order of deacon, and for minister's license.

228.2. To carefully examine and evaluate all persons desiring to receive a certificate for any of the assigned roles of ministry, including all lay and ministerial candidates aspiring to be recognized for ministries beyond the local church, and any other special relations provided by the *Manual*.

228.3. To carefully inquire of each candidate and make any other investigation deemed advisable concerning his or her personal experience of salvation; personal experience of entire sanctification by the baptism with the Holy Spirit; knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible; full acceptance of the doctrines, the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct, and the polity of the church; evidence of graces, gifts, intellectual, moral, and spiritual qualifications, and general fitness for the ministry to which the candidate feels called.

228.4. To carefully investigate the conduct of each candidate to seek to identify whether or not the candidate is engaging in or has a pattern of conduct, which if continued would be inconsistent with the ministry for which the candidate has applied.

228.5. To review for approval for reappointment any local minister who has been appointed as supply pastor if he or she is to continue such service after the district assembly following the appointment. (428.6)

228.6. To investigate and review the cause of failure of an ordained minister to report to the district assembly for two successive years and make recommendation to the district

assembly relative to the continued listing of the name on the published rolls of elders or deacons.

228.7. To investigate reports concerning an ordained minister indicating that he or she has placed his or her church membership with any other church or that he or she has joined with the ministry of another denomination or group or is participating in independent activities without duly authorized permission, and make recommendation to the district assembly relative to his or her retention on the roll of elders or deacons. (112, 435.11)

228.8. To recommend to the district assembly retired relationship for a minister requesting such relation and who, in the judgment of the board, is unable to continue in the active ministerial service because of disability (203.27, 433) or who desires to discontinue active ministerial service because of age.

228.9. To recommend to the district assembly, members of the clergy, and those licensed for continuing ministry roles, for transfer to another district, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board. (203.9, 434-34.2)

228.10. To recommend to the district assembly, persons having ministerial credentials, members of the clergy, and those licensed for continuing ministry roles for reception of transfer from other districts, including interim transfers approved by the District Advisory Board. (203.8, 434-34.2)

J. The District Ministerial Studies Board

229. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be composed of five or more assigned ordained ministers, elected by the district assembly to serve for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. However, their terms of service may be staggered by electing a proportion of the board annually. (203.16)

229.1. Vacancies occurring in the District Ministerial Studies Board, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. (212)

230. Before the close of the district assembly in which the board is elected, the district superintendent or district secre-

tary shall call a meeting of all the members of the board for organization and assignment as follows:

230.1. The board shall elect from among its members a chairperson. They shall elect an assigned ordained minister as secretary, who with the other members shall have the responsibility of examining and advancing candidates through a validated course of study for ordination. They shall maintain a permanent record for all students. (230.5, 426.1-26.3)

230.2. The chairperson shall assign to the other members of the board the responsibility for and supervision of all candidates enrolled in a validated course of study for ministerial preparation. Such assignment shall continue as long as the candidates remain actively enrolled during the committee member's term of office unless otherwise mutually arranged.

230.3. The chairperson shall attend all meetings of the board, unless providentially prevented, and shall oversee the work of the board each year. In case of necessary absence of the chairperson, the secretary shall do his or her work pro tempore.

230.4. The secretary shall, at the expense of the district assembly, provide a suitable record book of ministerial studies, which shall be the property of the district assembly, and shall be used according to instructions in the *Sourcebook on Ordination.*

230.5. The other members of the board shall attend faithfully the meetings of the board and shall supervise all candidates by (1) fraternal encouragement, counsel, and guidance; and (2) training by example and by conversation concerning the ethics of the clergy with specific attention being given to how a member of the clergy can avoid sexual misconduct. (230.1)

230.6. The board shall cooperate with the district superintendent and the Clergy Development office through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC) in seeking ways to encourage, aid, and guide the candidates who are pursuing validated courses of study in a Nazarene college/university or seminary.

231. The board may establish classes or seminars in order to assist licensed ministers or other candidates in the pur-

suit of the various validated courses of study, and establish, subject to approved district funding, central libraries of all books for loan when necessary.

231.1. The chairperson and the secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board are authorized to enroll a student in a validated course of study for ministerial education, in consultation with the district superintendent. (230.1-30.2, 426.1-26.3)

231.2. The board shall carry out its responsibilities in conformity with the official *Sourcebook on Ordination.*

231.3. The board shall report all relevant data concerning each candidate's educational progress to the District Ministerial Credentials Board in time for that board to process the data before the district assembly. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall recommend to the district assembly placement and advancement in and graduation from the various validated courses of study. Such placement, advancement, or graduation shall be consistent with guidelines provided by the office of Clergy Development through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC).

231.4. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall be responsible, in cooperation with officially recognized Nazarene institutions for ministerial preparation and the Clergy Development office through the respective Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC), and under the general guidance of the district superintendent, for the promotion of continuing education for ordained ministers and other staff ministers on the district. The continuing education shall include education concerning ethics of the clergy with particular attention being given to how a member of the clergy can avoid sexual misconduct.

K. The District Evangelism Board or Director of Evangelism

232. The district assembly may elect either a District Evangelism Board or a district director of evangelism. The persons elected shall serve until the final adjournment of the next district assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (203.19)

232.1. In cooperation with the district superintendent, the District Evangelism Board, or the district director of evangelism, shall seek to promote and amplify the necessity of holiness evangelism, by providing training opportunities, by conducting rallies and conferences, by emphasizing the need for local church revivals with God-called evangelists, and by every other available means, to impact the district with the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as a first priority in the functioning of the Body of Christ.

L. The District Church Properties Board

233. The District Church Properties Board shall be composed of the district superintendent ex-officio and no fewer than two assigned ministers and two lay members. Members may be elected by the district assembly to serve for a term of four years or until their successors are elected and qualified. The District Advisory Board may serve as the District Church Properties Board upon favorable vote of the district assembly.

234. The **duties of the District Church Properties Board** are:

234.1. To advance the cause of constructing church-related buildings within the bounds of the assembly district, in cooperation with the District Advisory Board.

234.2. To verify and conserve the titles to local church property.

234.3. To consider propositions submitted by local churches relating to the purchase or sale of real estate or the erection of church buildings or parsonages, and to advise them concerning the propositions submitted. (103)

234.4. To approve or disapprove, in conjunction with the district superintendent, propositions submitted by local churches relative to church building plans and the incurring of indebtedness in the purchase of real estate or the erection of buildings. The Church Properties Board shall normally approve a request to increase indebtedness subject to the following guidelines:

1. The local church requesting approval to increase indebtedness paid all financial apportionments in full for the two years preceding the request.

2. The amount of total indebtedness will not exceed three times the average of the amount raised for all purposes in each of the preceding three years.
3. The details of the planned remodeling or construction shall have been approved by the Church Properties Board.
4. The amount of indebtedness and the terms of payment will not jeopardize the spiritual life of the church.

The Church Properties Board may approve requests that do not meet these guidelines only with the approval of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board.

234.5. To do whatever else the district assembly may direct regarding the matter of local church property.

M. The District Assembly Finance Committee

235. The **duties of the District Assembly Finance Committee** are:

235.1. To meet prior to the district assembly and to make recommendation to the district assembly concerning all financial apportionments and the allocation of those apportionments to the local churches. (38.5)

235.2. To do whatever else the district assembly may direct in areas of district finance. (203.21)

235.3. To publish in the district journal the method used and the percentages applied to determine the fund base for all accepted financial apportionments.

N. The District Chaplaincy Director

236. The district superintendent may appoint a district chaplaincy director. In cooperation with the district superintendent, the district chaplaincy director shall seek to promote and amplify holiness evangelism through the specialized ministry of chaplaincy. The director will promote and support evangelism through industrial, institutional, campus, and military opportunities. The director shall give special attention to Nazarene servicemembers and other military members located on military installations, appointing and assisting host pastors located near these bases to impact servicemembers and their families for Christ, bonding them to our church while they are serving their country. (208.9)

O. The District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board

237. The District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board shall be composed of the district superintendent, the district Nazarene Missions International (NMI) president, the district Nazarene Youth International (NYI) president, and the chairperson of the District SDMI Board, who comprise an Executive Committee, and at least three additional members. The additional members shall be elected by the district assembly or the District SDMI Convention to staggered terms of three years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Upon initial organization of the District SDMI Board, the three additional members are to be elected from six nominees, with one being elected for a term of three years, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of one year. However, when the district total membership exceeds 5,000, the number of members nominated and elected may be doubled, and, when possible, at least four of the ten board members should be laypersons. Vacancies occurring in the SDMI Board, in the interim of sessions of the district assembly, may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. (212)

The **duties of the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board** are:

237.1. To meet within one week following their election and to organize by electing a secretary, treasurer, district directors of Adult Ministries International, Children's Ministries International, and Continuing Lay Training, who then shall become ex-officio members of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board. Other district directors, as deemed necessary, may be nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the board.

237.2. To give supervision to all Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) interests of the district.

237.3. To elect a Children's Ministries International Council* whose chairperson shall be the district director of

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*For additional information concerning the duties of Children's and Adult Ministries International councils, see the *SDMI Handbook*.

Children's Ministries International and whose members shall be the district directors of: boys' and girls' camps, Caravan, Vacation Bible School, Bible quizzing, children's church, Cradle Roll, and any others deemed necessary.

237.4. To elect an Adult Ministries International Council* whose chairperson shall be the district director of Adult Ministries International and whose members shall be the district directors of: marriage and family life, senior adult ministries, single adult ministries, lay retreat, small-group Bible studies, women's ministries, men's ministries, and any others deemed necessary.

237.5. To arrange for an annual district Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) convention. (237)

237.6. To determine, in consultation with the district superintendent, whether elections for the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board members and chairperson will be held in the district assembly or in the District SDMI Convention.

237.7. To encourage all local Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) superintendents and age-group ministries directors/Nazarene Youth International presidents to be present in the District SDMI Convention and take part as opportunity affords.

237.8. To organize the district into zones and appoint zone chairpersons who shall assist the board at its direction to carry forward the work of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) on the district.

237.9. To plan and implement district or zone Continuing Lay Training classes.

237.10. To assist the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) office of the General Board in securing information relating to district and local SDMI interests.

237.11. To recommend to the District Assembly Finance

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*For additional information concerning the duties of Children's and Adult Ministries International councils, see the *SDMI Handbook*.

Committee the annual District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board budget.

237.12. To be responsible for the district lay retreat. The district director of Adult Ministries International shall be member ex-officio of the District Lay Retreat Committee.

237.13. To approve the report of its chairperson to be presented to the district assembly.

237.14. To meet as frequently as deemed necessary by the district superintendent or the chairperson of the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board to plan and execute effectively the responsibilities of the board.

238. The District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Chairperson. The district assembly or the SDMI Convention, from two or more nominees submitted by the District Nominating Committee, shall elect a chairperson of the District SDMI Board to serve for a one- or two-year term. An incumbent chairperson may be reelected by a favorable "yes" or "no" vote when such vote has been recommended by the District SDMI Board, with the approval of the district superintendent. A vacancy in the interim of sessions of the district assembly may be filled according to the provisions of 212. (237.6)

The **duties and powers of the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International chairperson** are:

238.1. To give responsible leadership to the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) on the district by promoting programs of growth in enrollment and attendance, and to coordinate all programs relating to Children's and Adult Ministries International (CMI, AMI), and to work in cooperation with Nazarene Youth International (NYI) to coordinate youth Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups.

238.2. To be an ex-officio member of the district assembly and the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board.

238.3. To report to the General Board Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) office accurate

SDMI statistics each month and to prepare for the District SDMI Board a written report for the annual assembly journal.

P. The District Nazarene Youth International

239. Nazarene youth ministry is organized on the district under the auspices of Nazarene Youth International (NYI), under the NYI Charter, and the authority of the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, and the district assembly. The district NYI shall be composed of the members and local groups of Nazarene Youth International of the assembly district.

239.1. The district Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall organize itself according to the NYI District Ministry Plan, which may be adapted in response to district youth ministry needs, consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.*

239.2. The district Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall be coordinated by a District NYI Council, responsible for planning and organizing ministry for youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults, and collectively casting the vision for district youth ministry. The council shall be responsible to the district superintendent and District Advisory Board. All work of the NYI Council pertaining to Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups is subject to the approval of the district Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) chairperson and SDMI Board.

239.3. The District Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council shall be composed of the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, youth representatives and ministry directors as deemed necessary, and the district superintendent. District NYI officers and council members are elected by the annual District NYI Convention according to the NYI District Ministry Plan, and shall serve without salary. Nominees shall be approved by the district superintendent. Should the terms used to describe officers not effectively communicate in a particular culture, more appropriate titles may be used by vote of the District NYI Council.

239.4. The duties of the district Nazarene Youth International (NYI) president are to give direction and leadership to

the district NYI, to chair the District NYI Council in facilitating the development of youth ministry on the district, to preside at the annual District NYI Convention, to represent the interests of the district NYI on appropriate district boards and committees, and to encourage the development of NYI ministry in local churches on the district. The district NYI president shall report to the district superintendent and District Advisory Board, and annually to the district assembly. The district NYI president shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly (201).

Q. The District Nazarene Missions International

240. The District Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be composed of the local NMI within the boundaries of the assembly district. The district NMI shall represent Global Nazarene Missions International in district ministries. (811)

240.1. The District Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be governed by the NMI Constitution approved by the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention and the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board. It shall be subject to the district superintendent, the District Advisory Board, the district assembly, and the district NMI Council. (811)

240.2. The president of the District Nazarene Missions International shall serve without salary and shall be a member ex-officio of the district assembly. (201)

R. District Paid Assistants

241. When paid assistants become necessary for the greater efficiency of the district administration, such persons, ministerial or lay, shall be nominated by the district superintendent, after having secured the written approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction. They shall be elected by the District Advisory Board. The employment of such assistants shall be for no more than one year but may be renewed by recommendation of the district superintendent and the majority vote of the Advisory Board. (208.16)

241.1. Dismissal of such assistants prior to the end of the employment period must be by the recommendation of the

district superintendent and the majority vote of the District Advisory Board. (222.13)

241.2. The duties and services of such district assistants are to be determined and supervised by the district superintendent.

241.3. Within 30 days after a new district superintendent assumes administrative duties on the district, the term of service of the paid assistants shall be considered concluded, unless otherwise stipulated by national labor law. (Such clerical assistants as office secretaries shall not be included in the above provisions.) (207.3-7.4)

241.4. Service as a paid district assistant shall not prohibit one from serving in other district elected or appointed offices such as district secretary or district treasurer.

S. Disorganization of a District

242. When it seems clear to the Board of General Superintendents that a district no longer should continue as such, it may, upon their recommendation, be disorganized by a two-thirds favorable vote of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene and a formal pronouncement thereof. (200)

242.1. In case a district becomes officially disorganized, any church property that shall exist may in no way be diverted to other purposes, but shall pass to the control of the General Board, for the use of the Church of the Nazarene at large, as the General Assembly shall direct; and trustees holding property, or corporations created to hold property, for the disorganized district shall sell or dispose of the same only on the order and under the direction of the appointed agent of the General Board, and turn the funds over to such agent. (106.2, 106.5, 222.5)

CHAPTER III

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. Functions and Organization

300. The General Assembly is the supreme doctrine-formulating, lawmaking, and elective authority of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to the provisions of the church Constitution. (31.1-1.9)

300.1. The General Assembly shall be presided over by the general superintendents, jointly and severally. (31.6, 307.3)

300.2. The General Assembly shall elect its other officers and organize itself for the transaction of its business according to its wisdom and pleasure. (31.7)

300.3. Rules of Order. Subject to the applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of government in the *Manual*, the meetings and proceedings of the members of the Church of the Nazarene, local, district, and general, and the committees of the corporation shall be regulated and controlled according to *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (latest edition) for parliamentary procedure. (40)

B. Membership of the General Assembly

301. The General Assembly shall be composed of ministerial and lay delegates in equal numbers from each Phase 3 district, the district superintendent serving as one of the assigned ordained ministerial delegates, the remaining assigned ordained ministerial delegates and all the lay delegates elected thereto by the district assemblies of the Church of the Nazarene; the general superintendents emeriti and retired; the general superintendents; the general secretary; the general treasurer; the editor of *Holiness Today;* the directors of the several departments, ministries, and services of the General Board; the education commissioner; the regional directors; the national director of the Church of the Nazarene, Canada; the Global Nazarene Missions International president; the Global Nazarene Youth International

president; the regional college/university presidents (in regions where more than one school exists, one delegate from these schools would be elected by the Regional Advisory Council); presidents of multiregional institutions whose Board of Directors are elected by multiple district representatives; the president of the Nazarene Publishing House; the president of the Church of the Nazarene Foundation; the revivalism coordinator; one career missionary delegate for every region of 50 or fewer missionaries and two career missionary delegates for every region with 51 or more missionaries, nominated and elected from and by the assigned career missionaries serving in that region, by a method approved by the General Secretary's office. In the absence of such election the missionary representative shall be elected by the Global Mission Committee.

301.1. Each Phase 3 district shall be entitled to representation in the General Assembly by: one assigned ordained minister and one layperson for the first 2,000 or fewer full church members, and one additional assigned ordained minister and one additional layperson for the next 1 to 3,500 full members, and for each successive additional 1 to 3,500 full members.[1] The term "assigned ordained minister" shall include elders and deacons.

301.2. Each Phase 2 district shall be entitled to one lay and one ministerial delegate to the General Assembly. The assigned ordained ministerial delegate shall be the district superintendent. An alternate will be elected for each delegate.

301.3. A Phase 1 district shall be entitled to one non-voting delegate to the General Assembly. The district superintendent shall be the delegate, providing he or she holds his or her membership on the district. If the district superintendent does not hold his or her membership on the district, an alternate who is a member of the district will be elected.

301.4. The right of an assigned ministerial delegate-elect to the General Assembly to represent the district assembly

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1. 0-2,000; 2,001-5,500; 5,501-9,000; 9,001-12,500; 12,501-16,000; 16,001-19,500; 19,501-23,000; 23,001-26,500; 26,501-30,000; etc.

electing him or her shall be vacated in case he or she shall move to a new ministerial assignment on another assembly district, or if the delegate-elect shall leave the active, assigned ministry of the Church of the Nazarene prior to the convening of the General Assembly. Any minister who has been granted official retirement status by a district would be ineligible to be nominated as a delegate or a delegate-elect to the General Assembly.

301.5. The right of a lay delegate-elect to the General Assembly to represent the district assembly electing him or her shall be vacated in case he or she shall remove his or her church membership to some local church on another assembly district prior to the convening of the General Assembly.

C. The Time and Place of Meeting

302. The General Assembly shall meet in the month of June, every fourth year, at such time and place as shall be determined by a General Assembly Commission composed of the general superintendents and an equal number of persons chosen by the Board of General Superintendents. The general superintendents and said commission shall also have power, in case of an emergency, to change the time and place of the meeting of the General Assembly.

302.1. The General Assembly shall open on Sunday with a full day of devotional and inspirational services. Provision shall be made for the orderly and careful transaction of business, and for such services at the close of the session as it may order. The General Assembly shall fix the time at which its session shall adjourn. (31.4)

D. Special Sessions

303. The Board of General Superintendents, or a majority thereof, by and with the written consent of two-thirds of all the district superintendents, shall have power to call a special session of the General Assembly in case of an emergency, the time and place thereof to be determined by the general superintendents and a commission chosen by the Board of General Superintendents.

303.1. In case of a special session of the General Assembly,

the delegates and alternates to the last preceding General Assembly, or their duly elected and qualified successors, shall serve as delegates and alternates to the special session.

E. General Assembly Arrangements Committee

304. The general secretary, the general treasurer, and three persons appointed by the Board of General Superintendents at least one year before the convening of the General Assembly shall constitute the General Assembly Arrangements Committee.

304.1. The General Assembly Arrangements Committee shall have authority to arrange all necessary details regarding offices, exhibits and space, entertainment and meals, and whatever else may be needful to contribute to the comfort, convenience, and efficiency of the General Assembly, and enter into contracts necessary to provide the same.

304.2. The General Assembly Arrangements Committee with the general superintendents shall formulate a program for the General Assembly, including emphases for each of the general interests; a Communion service; and other religious services for the first three days of the General Assembly or until a committee on public worship shall have been appointed; all of which program shall be subject to approval by the General Assembly.

F. Business of the General Assembly

305. The business of the General Assembly, subject to paragraph 31.9 of the church Constitution, shall be:

305.1. To reference, through its Reference Committee, all resolutions, recommendations, and implementing legislation from commissions and special committee reports and other documents to standing or special legislative committees of the assembly, or to regional caucuses for consideration before being presented to the assembly. The Reference Committee may submit legislation affecting only a specific region/regions to the General Assembly delegates of said region(s) meeting in caucus for action. Changes that affect the *Manual* must be acted upon by the entire General Assembly.

305.2. To elect, by a two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, as many general superintendents as it may deem necessary, who shall hold office until 30 days following the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified;

a. First, there shall be a "yes" or "no" ballot for the general superintendents then serving.

b. Any vacancies remaining after the ballot process is completed for all general superintendents then serving shall be filled by ensuing ballots until the elections are completed.

In the event that someone who is ineligible under this provision receives votes on the first ballot, that person's name shall be deleted from the elective ballot and the report of the first ballot shall include this statement: "One or more names have been deleted due to ineligibility for the office."

No elder shall be considered eligible for election to the office of general superintendent who has at any time surrendered his or her credential for disciplinary reasons. No person shall be elected to the office of general superintendent who has not reached the age of 35 years or who has reached the age of 68 years. (31.5, 306, 900.1)

305.3. To elect a general superintendent to the emerita/emeritus honor when deemed advisable, provided the superintendent shall have become disabled or shall have reached 65 years of age. It is thereby understood that election to emerita/emeritus relation is of life tenure. (314.1)

305.4. To place in the retired relation a general superintendent who has attained to the age of 68 years, or who, in the judgment of the General Assembly, has become disqualified by physical disability, or by any other disqualification that would prevent such a person from caring adequately for the work of the general superintendency; and provided that said superintendent has served in the office of general superintendent for a reasonable term of years. The General Assembly may grant retired relation when a general superintendent who has attained the age of 65 years requests it.

Should a general superintendent who has attained the age of 65 years request retirement in the interim of General Assemblies, the request may be granted by the General

Board in regular session upon recommendation of the Board of General Superintendents. (314.1)

305.5. To fix a suitable retirement pension for each retired general superintendent, in accordance with paragraph 314.2.

305.6. To elect a General Board, as provided in 332.1-33.4, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (331, 901.1)

305.7. To elect a General Court of Appeals, consisting of five assigned ordained ministers, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. The Board of General Superintendents shall select the chairperson and secretary. (31.8, 510, 901.2)

305.8. To elect boards of control for educational institutions serving multiregional areas, to serve until their successors are elected and qualified and in accordance with the following provisions:

a. The boards of control shall be comprised of persons from the respective areas served by the institution.

b. In instances where the institution serves a multiregional area, election of that board shall be conducted in the General Assembly regional caucus(es) composed of delegates from the regions primarily served by the schools.

305.9. To do anything else, in harmony with the Holy Scriptures, that wisdom may dictate for the general welfare of the Church of the Nazarene and the holy cause of Christ, subject to the church Constitution. (31.9)

G. The General Superintendents

306. The general superintendents, elected by the General Assembly, shall serve until 30 days following the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (305.2)

306.1. A general superintendent shall hold no other general office in the church while serving as general superintendent. (307.11)

306.2. The general superintendents shall be members ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

307. The **duties and powers of the general superintendents** are:

307.1. To clearly articulate the vision of the Church of the Nazarene.

307.2. To have general supervision of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to the law and order as adopted by the General Assembly.

307.3. To preside over the General Assembly and over the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, jointly and severally. (300.1, 335.3)

307.4. To ordain, or appoint others to ordain, in connection with the ordained ministers present, those who have been duly elected to be elders or deacons. (435.5-35.6)

307.5. To preside over each Phase 3 district assembly; or, if hindered from doing so, to make suitable arrangements for such presidency. (202, 211)

307.6. The general superintendent presiding over a district assembly, the district superintendent, and the District Advisory Board, in concurrence with the delegates of local churches, shall appoint pastors over such local churches as have not regularly called pastors. (214.1)

307.7. The general superintendents, jointly and severally, may appoint district superintendents over assembly districts where vacancies occur in the interim of district assembly sessions, upon consultation with a committee composed of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) Board, and the presidents of the district Nazarene Missions International (NMI) and Nazarene Youth International (NYI), the district secretary and the district treasurer. Pursuant to paragraph 206, all qualified elders are eligible for consideration, including those of that district. (207)

307.8. In the event of temporary incapacitation of an incumbent district superintendent, the general superintendent having jurisdiction, in consultation with the District Advisory Board, may appoint a qualified elder to serve as interim district superintendent. The question of incapacitation

shall be determined by the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the District Advisory Board. (207.2)

307.9. The general superintendent in jurisdiction may recommend to the Board of General Superintendents that a Phase 3 district be declared in crisis. (200.2, 322)

307.10. The general superintendent having jurisdiction may preside at the annual, or a special meeting of a local church, or appoint a representative to do so. (113.5)

307.11. The general superintendents shall not be members of any of the general boards of the Church of the Nazarene. (306.1)

307.12. All official acts of the general superintendents shall be subject to review and revision by the General Assembly.

307.13. Any official act of a general superintendent may be nullified by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of General Superintendents.

307.14. The office of any general superintendent may be declared vacant, for cause, by the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board of General Superintendents, supported by a majority vote of all the district superintendents of Phase 3 and Phase 2 districts.

H. General Superintendents Emeriti and Retired

314. All general superintendents emeriti and retired general superintendents shall be members ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

314.1. A general superintendent who has been placed in the retired relation, or voted emerita/emeritus honor, shall not be a member of the Board of General Superintendents and shall be relieved of all official responsibility. However, in the event that an active general superintendent should be incapacitated by illness, hospitalization, or other unavoidable emergency necessitating absence from any assignment, the Board of General Superintendents is empowered to call into temporary assignment any retired general superintendent. (305.3-5.5, 900.1)

314.2. The pension for a general superintendent shall be

under the provisions of the General Church Pension Plan, a qualified church plan. (305.5)

I. The Board of General Superintendents

315. The general superintendents shall organize as a board and arrange for and assign to the members thereof the particular work over which they shall have special jurisdiction.

316. Vacancy. If a vacancy occurs, by death or otherwise, in the Board of General Superintendents, in the interim of sessions of the General Assembly, the question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the Board of General Superintendents. Upon receipt of the board's decision, the general secretary shall notify at once all members of the General Board. When an election is called for, the members of the General Board shall elect, by a two-thirds vote of all eligible to vote, an elder of the Church of the Nazarene to fill the vacancy and to perform the duties of the general superintendent until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly. (31.5, 305.2)

316.1. The general secretary shall report the result of the vote to the Board of General Superintendents, which shall announce the same to the Church of the Nazarene.

317. The **duties of the Board of General Superintendents** shall be:

317.1. To provide supervision of the global Church of the Nazarene. The Board of General Superintendents shall provide appropriate attention to leadership, guidance, motivation, and access to all Phase 3 districts.

317.2. To recommend, in consultation with the director of the Global Mission office, and the respective national administrative directors and/or regional directors, changes in the assignment of the geographical areas subject to the approval of the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board.

317.3. To have supervision of all general boards and the committees of the General Board. The policies and plans adopted by the board or committee require the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The Board of Gener-

al Superintendents shall have the privilege of making to the General Board and to the committees thereof such recommendations as they shall deem advisable. They shall approve or disapprove all nominations made by the Global Mission Committee to the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene for appointment as missionaries.

317.4. To function as a Nominating Committee, in conjunction with the General Board Executive Committee, to bring one or more names to the General Board for election of a general secretary and a general treasurer.

317.5. To declare vacant with cause by a two-thirds vote the office of general secretary, general treasurer, Nazarene Publishing House president, or department director.

317.6. To fill vacancies that may occur in the membership of the General Court of Appeals in the interim of sessions of the General Assembly, and to select the chairperson and secretary of the court. (305.7, 511, 901.2)

317.7. To fill vacancies that may occur in any special commission or committee in the interim of General Assemblies or General Board.

317.8. To approve the appointments and elections made by the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene in filling vacancies that may occur in its membership.

317.9. To fill vacancies, upon nomination made by the remaining members thereof, on the corporate board of the Nazarene Publishing House. (338)

317.10. To appoint general superintendents to serve as advisers of all institutions of higher education affiliated with the International Board of Education. (901.5)

317.11. To arrange, in conjunction with Clergy Development, ministerial studies for local ministers, licensed ministers, and those serving in ministerial roles, lay or credentialed. (426-27)

317.12. To plan, preserve and promote the lifeline of our global mission interests, the Board of General Superintendents, with the General Board, is authorized and empowered to apportion the World Evangelism Fund to the several assembly districts. (38.5, 130, 335.8)

317.13. To approve in writing the restoration of credential to a former elder or deacon as required. (436.7, 437.2)

318. The Board of General Superintendents shall be the authority for the interpretation of the law and doctrine of the Church of the Nazarene, and the meaning and force of all provisions of the *Manual,* subject to an appeal to the General Assembly.

319. The Board of General Superintendents shall consider and pass upon plans for district centers, which plans shall not be carried out until they have been approved in writing by the Board of General Superintendents. (222.9)

320. The Board of General Superintendents shall have discretionary power in the ordaining of divorced persons to the office of elder or deacon in the Church of the Nazarene. (35.1-35.3, 430.3, 431.3)

321. The Board of General Superintendents may declare vacant with cause the office of a district superintendent of any Phase 2 or Phase 1 district upon recommendation of the general superintendent having jurisdiction and may declare vacant the office of district superintendents in Phase 3 districts upon a two-thirds majority vote of the District Advisory Board, the chairperson of the District SDMI Board, the presidents of the district NMI and NYI, the district secretary, and the district treasurer. (207.2)

322. The Board of General Superintendents may approve that a Phase 3 district be declared in crisis. (200.2, 307.9)

323. Following each general assembly, the revised *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* is to be effective in all languages when the Board of General Superintendents gives the official release date for communication through the *Holiness Today* publication and the *Nazarene Communication Network News* summary.

324. The Board of General Superintendents shall have authority to do anything else in the service of the Church of the Nazarene, not otherwise provided for, according to the dictates of its wisdom, in harmony with the general church order, and subject to the church Constitution.

J. The General Secretary

325. The general secretary, elected by the General Board as provided by General Board Bylaws, shall serve until the

final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until a successor is elected and qualified, or until removed according to 317.5. (900.2)

325.1. The general secretary shall be a member ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

325.2. If in the interim of sessions of the General Board a vacancy should occur in the office of the general secretary for any cause, it shall be filled by the General Board, upon nomination as provided in 317.4. (335.22)

325.3. The general secretary shall be amenable to the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board.

326. The **duties of the general secretary** are:

326.1. To record correctly and preserve the journal of the proceedings of the General Assembly and the General Board.

326.2. To record correctly and preserve all general statistics of the Church of the Nazarene.

326.3. To preserve all documents belonging to the General Assembly, and promptly deliver the same to his or her successor.

326.4. To preserve carefully, in permanent form, all decisions rendered by the General Court of Appeals. (513)

326.5. To catalogue and preserve all filed, surrendered, removed, and resigned credentials of ministers and deliver them only on proper order made by the district assembly of the assembly district from which they were received. (436-36.1, 436.6)

326.6. To audit assembly district statistical charts for publication. (217.3)

326.7. To maintain in a permanent database the records of all persons who have been granted a district minister's license.

326.8. To make available the minutes of the General Assembly sessions to the delegates of the specific assembly who make a request for them through their district, or in Global Mission areas, their regional office. This may be done in digital format.

326.9. To make available for download from http://www.nazarene.org the complete text of the latest ver-

sion of the *Manual*, in a format that can be used in the widest possible range of personal computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), etc.

326.10. To do faithfully whatever else may be necessary for the fulfillment of the duties of the office.

327. The general secretary shall be custodian of, and hold in trust, such legal documents as belong to the general church.

327.1. The general secretary is authorized to collect available historic material relating to the rise and development of our denomination, and shall be the custodian of such records and material.

327.2. The general secretary shall keep a register of Historic Sites and Landmarks according to paragraph 902.9.

328. The general secretary, in conjunction with the general superintendents, shall, prior to the opening of the General Assembly, prepare all necessary forms, including *Rules of Order "Manual" Abridgment* for revision, and other things necessary for expediting the work of the General Assembly. The expense incurred shall be provided for out of the General Assembly expense fund.

328.1. The general secretary may have as many assistants for the work as the General Assembly shall elect, or, in the interim of sessions of the General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents may appoint.

K. The General Treasurer

329. The general treasurer, elected by the General Board as provided by General Board Bylaws, shall serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until a successor is elected and qualified or until removed according to 317.5. (900.3)

329.1. The general treasurer shall be a member ex-officio of the General Assembly. (301)

329.2. The general treasurer shall be amenable to the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the Global Ministry Center Financial office, the Board of General Superintendents, and the General Board.

330. The **duties of the general treasurer** are:

330.1. To have the custody of all funds belonging to the general interests of the Church of the Nazarene.

330.2. To receive, and disburse on order, the funds of the Global Administration and Finance Committee, Global Education and Clergy Development Committee, Global Ministries Services Committee, Global Mission Committee, and such other funds as properly belong to the General Board, or to any of its departments; the general superintendents' fund; the general contingent fund; the General Assembly expense fund; other general benevolent church funds; the funds of the Global Nazarene Youth International; and the funds of the Global Nazarene Missions International. (331.3)

330.3. To give bond for the faithful performance of duties, in a reliable surety company, in a good and sufficient sum, as the General Board may direct.

330.4. To furnish such reports to the boards and departments, for whose funds he or she may be custodian, as may be required by them.

330.5. To furnish to the General Board an annual report of all finances of the Church of the Nazarene, including investments. (335.13)

330.6. To safeguard annuity funds invested in real estate by proper insurance policies and to provide against the lapsing of such policies.

330.7. To secure monthly reports of receipts and disbursements from all schools, orphanages, rescue homes, and other institutions of the Church of the Nazarene.

L. The General Board

331. The General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, a religious and charitable corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Missouri at Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A., shall be composed of members who shall be elected by ballot by the General Assembly from among the persons nominated as provided in 332.1-33.4. To be elected a member of the General Board as a representative of a church region, one must be a resident on that region as well as a member of a local church on that region. (305.6, 334)

331.1. No one shall be eligible for election to the General

Board or shall remain a member of the General Board who is an employee of the General Board, or entities including educational institutions controlled by the General Board. Individuals from districts or other entities receiving operating funds from the general church are likewise ineligible.

331.2. The general secretary shall be ex-officio secretary of the General Board.

331.3. The general treasurer of the Church of the Nazarene shall be ex-officio treasurer of the General Board and also of the departments thereof. (330.2)

332. Nominations for the General Board shall be made as herein provided:

332.1. After the delegates to the General Assembly have been elected, each Phase 3 district delegation shall meet to select candidates for nomination to the General Board in the following manner. Each Phase 3 district may present names of two assigned ordained ministers and two laypersons. The multicultural composition of the nominating district should be considered in selecting names for nomination. For such regions that have a Regional Advisory Council, the names of these candidates shall be sent first to the national board and then to the Regional Advisory Council, which may reduce the number of names to three for each member that the caucus needs to vote on, after which the names shall be sent immediately to the office of the general secretary to be placed on ballots for presentation to the General Assembly delegates from each region. (203.23)

332.2. From the list of these candidates, the General Assembly delegates from each region shall nominate to the General Assembly as follows:

Each region of 100,000 or fewer full members shall nominate one assigned ordained minister and one layperson; each region exceeding 100,000 and up to 200,000 full members shall nominate two assigned ordained ministers, one district superintendent and one pastor or evangelist, and two laypersons; and one additional layperson and one additional assigned ordained minister for regions exceeding 200,000 full members, with the following provisions:

1. On those regions whose membership is in excess of

200,000 full members, one assigned ordained minister shall be a pastor or evangelist; another shall be a district superintendent; and the other assigned ordained minister may be in either category.

2. No district shall be entitled to more than two members on the General Board, and no region shall be entitled to more than six members (with the exception of institutional representatives and members of Nazarene Missions International {NMI} and Nazarene Youth International {NYI}). Whenever more than two candidates from a district receive a higher number of votes than candidates from other districts on the region, those on another district receiving the next highest number of votes shall be selected as nominees from the region. (305.6, 901.1)
3. In each region the layperson/laypersons, the pastor or evangelist, and/or the district superintendent who receive the highest number of votes in their respective classifications shall be nominated by majority vote to the General Assembly. In the instance of the larger regions where six members are to be elected, the layperson and the assigned ordained minister who receive the next highest number of votes shall be the additional nominees. (902.8)
4. If a Regional Advisory Council determines that it is likely that a majority of elected delegates will be prevented from attending the General Assembly, the regional caucus voting may be conducted via postal or electronic means within six months prior to the start of General Assembly. The specific process by which this postal or electronic nomination of General Board members to the General Assembly occurs shall be proposed by the Regional Advisory Council and submitted to the General Secretary's office for approval prior to implementation.

332.3. The International Board of Education (IBOE) shall nominate to the General Assembly four persons from the educational institutions, two assigned ordained ministers and two laypersons. (331.1)

332.4. The Global Council of the Nazarene Youth Interna-

tional (NYI) shall nominate to the General Assembly the newly elected Global NYI president. In the event that the newly elected Global NYI president cannot serve the General Board due to extenuating circumstances, the Global NYI Council will nominate one member from the Global NYI Council. (342.4)

332.5. The Global Council of the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall nominate to the General Assembly two members of the Global NMI Council. (343.3)

333. Elections to the General Board shall be as herein provided:

333.1. Each nominee presented by the respective regions shall be elected by the General Assembly by a majority "yes" vote by ballot. (902.8)

333.2. From the nominees presented by the International Board of Education, the General Assembly shall elect two, one of whom shall be an assigned ordained minister and one a layperson.

333.3. From the nominee presented by the Global Council of the Nazarene Youth International, the General Assembly shall elect by a majority "yes" vote by ballot. (342.4, 901.3)

333.4. From the nominees presented by the Global Council of the Nazarene Missions International, the General Assembly shall elect one. (343.3, 901.4)

334. The members of the General Board shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. In the event that a member of the General Board shall move his or her church membership or residence from the region he or she represents, or if a minister changes from the category of ministerial assignment for which elected, before the second regular meeting of the quadrennium, his or her membership shall be terminated immediately. The vacancy so created shall be filled promptly. (331)

334.1. Vacancies occurring in the membership of the General Board, and also the committees thereof, shall be filled upon nomination by the Board of General Superintendents, who shall present to the general secretary, as soon as feasible, the names of two eligible persons from whom for

regional representation the Advisory Boards of the districts of the region on which the vacancy occurred shall elect one by a majority vote, each Phase 2 and Phase 3 District Advisory Board being entitled to one vote. For educational representation, the nominees shall be submitted to the General Board to elect one by a majority vote. For representation from Nazarene Youth International (NYI), nominees shall be submitted to the Global NYI Council to elect one by a majority vote. For representation from Nazarene Missions International (NMI), nominees shall be submitted from the Executive Committee of the Global NMI Council in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction, and with the approval of the Board of General Superintendents to the Global NMI Council to elect one by a majority vote.

Duties of the General Board

335. The General Board shall encourage and expect all national, regional, district, and local boards to fulfill the mission of the Church of the Nazarene, which is to propagate Christian holiness in the Wesleyan tradition, and shall facilitate the progress of the global church in each nation and/or region. The General Board shall promote the financial and material affairs of all the committees of the Church of the Nazarene, subject to such instructions as may be given by the General Assembly. It shall coordinate, correlate, and unify the plans and activities of the several constituent committees so that a unified policy may be established by and in all the activities of the Church of the Nazarene. It shall have the power to direct the auditing of the accounts of all departments and institutions relating to or associated with the Church of the Nazarene, with a view to securing such uniformity of method and completeness of form as shall be most efficient; and it shall be an advisory body in the business and administrative affairs of the several departments of the General Board and of all the organizations and institutions that are a part of, related to, or associated with this denomination. These departments, organizations, and institutions shall give due consideration to the advice and recommendations of the General Board.

335.1. The General Board shall have power to buy, own, hold, manage, mortgage, sell, convey, and donate, or otherwise acquire, encumber, and dispose of both real and personal property, sold, devised, bequeathed, donated, or otherwise conveyed to it in trust for any lawful purpose, and to execute such trust; to borrow and to loan money in the execution of its lawful purposes.

335.2. The General Board shall fill a vacancy in the Board of General Superintendents in accordance with paragraphs 316 and 305.2.

335.3. The General Board shall meet before or immediately following the final adjournment of the General Assembly and shall organize by electing officers and committees, and members to committees as required by its Articles of Incorporation and bylaws, to serve for the quadrennium and until their successors are elected and qualified. The general superintendents, jointly and severally, shall preside over the meetings of the General Board.

335.4. Meetings. The General Board shall meet in session at least three times during the quadrennium, at a time specified by the bylaws of the said board, in the Kansas City, Missouri area, U.S.A.; however, the hour, date, and place of the regular meeting may, by resolution unanimously adopted at any regular or special meeting, be changed to suit the best interests of the General Board and its committees.

335.5. Special Meetings of the General Board may be called by the chairperson, the president, or the secretary.

335.6. Global Administration and Finance Committee. The Global Administration and Finance Committee, elected by the General Board, shall have charge of the proper investment of trust funds. The General Board, after first referring to this committee all budget requests submitted by the several departments and offices of the Global Ministry Center for the ensuing year, shall receive from the committee a report of its recommendations concerning each request. This committee shall perform any other work assigned to it by the Board. It shall keep accurate minutes of all its meetings and submit them to the General Board for approval.

335.7. World Evangelism Fund. The World Evangelism

Fund shall be the grand total of all department budgets and other funds to be raised by the whole denomination for the support, maintenance, and promotion of its general activities.

From the statements of budget requests submitted by the various departments and agencies of the church, and from the statements of the general treasurer, the General Board shall determine the amount to be allotted from the World Evangelism Fund to each department and fund. When the World Evangelism Fund with its proposed allotment to each department shall have been agreed upon, it shall be submitted to the Board of General Superintendents for its consideration, suggestions, or amendments before final adoption by the General Board.

335.8. When the total amount of the World Evangelism Fund has been fixed for the next fiscal year by the General Board, the General Board and the Board of General Superintendents are authorized and empowered to apportion the World Evangelism Fund to the several assembly districts on a basis of equity to both the district and general interests affected. (130, 317.12)

335.9. The General Board shall have authority to increase or diminish the amount requested by any department or fund. Items of finance adopted by the General Assembly shall be referred to the General Board, who shall be authorized to adjust proportionately with existing economic conditions the annual allocation of any institution or agency of the church, in keeping with the total financial commitment of the general church.

335.10. The General Board shall approve appropriations from the World Evangelism Fund for the Nazarene Theological Seminary (U.S.A.) and the Nazarene Bible College (U.S.A.) as it may deem advisable in line with the availability of funds.

335.11. The General Board shall annually review and make appropriate adjustments in the salaries and related benefits of the general superintendents in the interim of General Assemblies.

335.12. Reports. The General Board shall, at its regular meeting, receive a detailed report of the activities of the de-

partments for the past year, including a financial report. Each department shall also submit a proposed expenditures budget for the ensuing year.

335.13. The general treasurer shall annually present to the General Board a detailed financial report of receipts and disbursements of all funds of which he or she has been custodian during the past year, including trust funds and investments, together with a detailed statement of the proposed expenditures for the ensuing year of funds not included in the budgets of departments of the General Board. The general treasurer shall be responsible to the General Board for the faithful performance of official duties. (330.5)

335.14. The General Board shall meet before or immediately following the final adjournment of the General Assembly and shall elect a general secretary and a general treasurer as provided in General Board Bylaws, who shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified.

335.15. The General Board members representing United States regions shall elect a Board of Pensions and Benefits USA, composed of one member representing each United States region, and one member-at-large. Nominations shall be submitted by the Board of General Superintendents as provided by the Bylaws of the Board of Pensions and Benefits USA. (337)

335.16. The General Board shall elect a Nazarene Publishing House Board following each General Assembly, who shall serve until the adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified. (338)

335.17. The General Board shall elect a Nazarene Publishing House president in the manner prescribed by 335.20 and General Board Bylaws.

335.18. A General Board agenda item affecting only a specific region/nation shall be referred upon approval of the Executive Committee of the General Board and the Board of General Superintendents, to the General Board members of said region/nation meeting in caucus.

335.19. The General Board shall properly relate any commission or committee authorized by the General Assembly

or General Board to some department or departments, or to the board as a whole, and assign its work, responsibility, and budget.

335.20. Department Directors. The General Board shall elect a department director, by ballot, for each of its several departments, to serve until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are elected and qualified, unless removed from office as provided in paragraph 317.5. They shall be **nominated according to the following procedures:** If there is an incumbent director, the Nominating Committee may recommend either a "yes" or "no" vote, or present multiple nominees. The search for capable candidates for these offices shall be conducted by a search committee as provided by General Board Bylaws. This committee will bring two or more names to the Nominating Committee along with supporting rationale for their recommendation.

The Nominating Committee, composed of the six general superintendents and the Personnel Committee from the respective committee, shall submit one or more names to the General Board for election as provided in the General Board Bylaws.

335.21. Executives' Salaries. The General Board shall establish and document a "performance evaluation" and salary administration program that includes the department director and ministry/service directors and provides for a salary structure that recognizes both levels of responsibility and merit. The General Board shall annually review and approve the salaries of department directors, the Nazarene Publishing House president, and such other officers as may be authorized and elected by the General Board.

335.22. The General Board, during the interim of sessions of the General Assembly and/or General Board, upon nomination as provided in the General Board Bylaws and 317.4, shall fill any vacancy that may occur in the offices listed in 335.14, 335.20, and any other executive offices created by the General Assembly, General Board, or their elected committees.

336. The **retirement** for all officers and any other director listed in 335.14 and 335.20, and any other agency head

employed by the General Assembly or its elected commissions, the General Board and its departments, shall occur at the time of the General Board meeting following their 70th birthday. Where there are vacancies, they shall be filled in accordance with *Manual* procedures.

M. General Church-related Boards

Pension Boards

337. There shall be a Pensions Board, or equivalent authorized body, with fiduciary responsibility for each church-related pension plan. A pension plan may apply at organizational, district, multidistrict, national, regional, or multiregional level as the needs may dictate. (335.15)

337.1. The General Board shall establish and maintain suggested guidelines that are relevant to all pension programs worldwide. The General Board does not guarantee any pension plan from loss or depreciation. The General Board does not guarantee the payment of any money that may be or becomes due to any person from any pension plan, and shall not be liable in the case of the underfunding of any pension plan. (38.5)

337.2. All pension plans shall submit an annual report to the General Board through Pensions and Benefits International in the form and format requested. (38.5)

Nazarene Publishing House Board

338. The Nazarene Publishing House (NPH), a corporation of Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A., shall have a Board of Directors composed of nine members: the president of the Nazarene Publishing House, who shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation; the general secretary of the Church of the Nazarene, who shall be the ex-officio secretary of the corporation; one General Board member from the Global Ministries Services Committee and selected by that committee; and six members-at-large, nominated by the Board of General Superintendents and elected by the General Board. They shall hold office until the final adjournment of the next General Assembly and until their successors are

elected and qualified. Vacancies shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining members from nominations made by the Board of General Superintendents.

338.1. The Board of Directors shall review and provide guidance for the policy, planning, and business operations of the Nazarene Publishing House (NPH) and shall serve in accordance with the charter and bylaws of NPH and the General Board.

338.2. The Nazarene Publishing House (NPH) Board shall meet annually, or more frequently, as specified in the NPH Bylaws.

338.3. The Capital Expenditures Budget and an annual budget shall be prepared by the president of the Nazarene Publishing House for approval by the Board of Directors before adoption by the General Board.

338.4. The president of the Nazarene Publishing House (NPH) shall be responsible to the NPH Board of Directors for the management of the corporation's business, and shall report annually to the Board of Directors and to the General Board.

338.5. The president of the Nazarene Publishing House shall be elected in accordance with 335.20, except that the Board of Directors will select one of their number to serve on the Search Committee when a new president is to be elected, and the Nominating Committee shall be composed of the six general superintendents, three members of the Board of Directors who are not members ex-officio, and three members of the General Board Executive Committee. He or she shall be amenable to the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

338.6. The president of the Nazarene Publishing House shall be a member of the Global Ministry Center Directors Fellowship and the Planning and Budget Council.

N. The Christian Action Committee

339. Following the General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents shall appoint a **Christian Action Committee,** one of whom shall be the general secretary, who shall report the committee's work to the General Board.

The **duties of the General Christian Action Committee** are:

339.1. To provide and develop for our people constructive information regarding such matters as alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, gambling and other current moral and social issues in harmony with church doctrine, and to disseminate the information in denominational communications.

339.2. To emphasize the sanctity of marriage and the sacredness of the Christian home and to point out the problems and evils of divorce. In particular, stress should be laid upon the biblical plan of marriage as a lifelong covenant, to be broken only by death.

339.3. To encourage our people to serve in places of leadership in organizations working for civic and social righteousness.

339.4. To alert our people regarding the Lord's Day observance, oath-bound secret orders, entertainments that are subversive of the Christian ethic, worldliness of other types, and such related subjects as may need emphasis. (34.1)

339.5. To assist and encourage each district to establish a Christian Action Committee; and to provide each district committee with information and material on current moral issues to be disseminated to each local church for appropriate action.

339.6. To monitor moral issues of national and international importance and to present the scriptural viewpoint to the appropriate organizations for their consideration.

O. Committee on the Interests of the God-Called Evangelist

340. The Committee on the Interests of the God-Called Evangelist shall be composed of the revivalism coordinator, who shall be ex-officio chairperson of the committee, plus four tenured evangelists and one pastor. The USA/Canada office director, in consultation with the revivalism coordinator shall submit a list of nominees for the committee to the Board of General Superintendents for approval and appointment. The committee or its designee shall personally interview commissioned evangelists who have been recommended by their respective district assemblies for "tenured evangelist" status (408.3). It shall also review the state of

itinerant evangelism in the Church of the Nazarene and make recommendations concerning both revivals and evangelists to the appropriate committee of the General Board. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment from the Board of General Superintendents from recommendations received from the USA/Canada office director, in consultation with the revivalism coordinator. (317.7)

P. International Course of Study Advisory Committee

341. Following the General Assembly, the Clergy Development director, in consultation with the regional education coordinators, shall submit a list of nominees to serve on the International Course of Study Advisory Committee (ICOSAC). Nominees to the committee may include pastoral, administrative, educational, and lay representatives. Composition of ICOSAC should substantially represent the global church. The Board of General Superintendents shall appoint the International Course of Study Advisory Committee to serve for the quadrennium.

The International Course of Study Advisory Committee shall meet not less than once every two years at a location determined by the Clergy Development director (426.1-26.2, 426.5).

Q. The Global Nazarene Youth International

342. Nazarene youth ministry is organized globally under the auspices of Nazarene Youth International (NYI), under the NYI Charter, and the authority of the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI and General Board. The global NYI shall be composed of the members, local groups and district organizations, of Nazarene Youth International around the world. The global NYI is governed by the NYI Charter and the NYI Global Ministry Plan approved by the General Assembly.

342.1. There shall be a quadrennial Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Convention which shall meet at a time set by the Board of General Superintendents, in consultation with the Global Council of Nazarene Youth International. The quadrennial convention shall be composed of

such members as are designated in the NYI Global Ministry Plan (810).

342.2. The convention shall elect a global president and a global vice president, who shall be members ex-officio of the Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council and shall serve without salary.

342.3. The Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Council shall be composed of the president, vice president, youth members-at-large, and representation from each region as designated by the NYI Global Ministry Plan (810). The director of Nazarene Youth International shall serve ex-officio on the council. The council shall be responsible to the General Board through the Global Ministries Services Committee, and to the general superintendent in jurisdiction for NYI, and shall conduct itself under the authority of the NYI Charter and the NYI Global Ministry Plan. The Global NYI Council members shall hold office until the conclusion of the subsequent General Assembly, when their successors are elected and qualified.

342.4. The Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall be represented on the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene by one member elected by the General Assembly from the nomination made by the Global NYI Council. (332.4, 333.3)

342.5. The Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) shall be represented at the General Assembly by the global NYI president at the close of his or her term (301).

R. The Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International

343. The Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be composed of the global president, global director, and the number of members prescribed by the Constitution of the Global NMI and elected in accordance therewith.

343.1. The Global Council shall be governed by the NMI Constitution. The Global Council shall report to the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board. (811)

343.2. The global director shall be nominated by the Global Mission office director, in consultation with the general

superintendent in jurisdiction for the Global Mission office, and shall be approved by a majority vote of the Global Council before being submitted to the Global Mission Committee for approval by a majority vote with the recommendation submitted for election by the Board of General Superintendents. In the event the nomination is not approved, the director of the Global Mission office and the Board of General Superintendents shall submit further nominations until one is approved by majority ballot vote of the Global Council. The global director shall be an ex-officio member of the Global Nazarene Missions International (NMI) Council and a member of the staff of the Global Mission office.

343.3. The Global Nazarene Missions International shall be represented on the General Board by one member elected thereto by the General Assembly from nominations made by the Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International. (332.5, 333.4)

343.4. There shall be a Quadrennial Convention held under the direction of the Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International immediately preceding the regular meeting of the General Assembly. This convention shall elect the Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International in harmony with the Constitution. The convention shall elect a global president, who shall be a member ex-officio of the Global Council of the Global Nazarene Missions International. (811)

S. National Boards

344. Where deemed necessary, a national board shall be established to facilitate the fulfillment of the church's mission allowing for unified strategies for evangelism, discipleship, church planting, district development, new districts, ministerial preparation, resource development, and ministerial retirement savings plans; by providing for the acquiring, holding, selling, and conveying of property; or by dealing with any other administrative and/or legal business matters relative to the Church of the Nazarene in that nation, for which no other provision is made in the *Manual*. Such a board shall be recognized as a lawful authority of the Church of the Nazarene in that nation.

Where only one district of the Church of the Nazarene is organized in the nation, the duly elected District Advisory Board shall be the national board to conduct business as outlined above.

Where there are two or more organized districts in one nation, the national board shall be composed of the duly appointed or elected district superintendents, as well as one assigned elder and two lay representatives elected by the district assembly, from the members of the District Advisory Board; or, with the approval of the General Board and the Board of General Superintendents, the membership shall consist of those persons duly elected or appointed as district superintendents and additional representation of assigned ordained ministers and laypersons as agreed upon.

Where there is more than one region in one nation, the duly elected representatives from said regions to the General Board and additional representation of assigned ordained ministers and laypersons as agreed upon shall constitute the national board. (332-32.2)

A copy of the articles of organization or incorporation of such board shall be filed immediately with the general secretary. Any business transacted by the national board shall be subject to the approval of the Board of General Superintendents. The minutes of the annual and special meetings of the national board shall be reviewed by the Regional Advisory Council who shall recommend approval or disapproval, before they are submitted to the general secretary for reading and approval by the General Board. (38.5)

T. The Region

345. Origin and Purpose. In the growth of the church worldwide, there has developed a grouping of several organized districts into geographical areas identified as regions. A cluster of districts amenable to the general government of the Church of the Nazarene and having a sense of area and cultural identification may be formed into an administrative region by action of the General Board and approval of the Board of General Superintendents.

345.1. Regional Policy. In keeping with the non-sym-

metrical approach to organization, the Board of General Superintendents may, when deemed necessary, and in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council, structure administrative regions according to the particular needs, potential problems, existing realities and diverse cultural and educational backgrounds in their particular geographic areas of the world. In such situations, the Board of General Superintendents shall establish a policy that embraces non-negotiable commitments including our *Articles of Faith*, faithful adherence to our holiness doctrine and lifestyle, and support of our extensive missionary outreach efforts.

345.2. Duties. The **principal duties of the regions** are:

1. To implement the mission of the Church of the Nazarene through the established pioneer areas, districts, and institutions;
2. To develop regional awareness, fellowship, and strategies to fulfill the Great Commission, bringing district and institutional representatives together periodically for planning, prayer, and inspiration;
3. To nominate persons to the General Assembly and Global Conventions for elections to the General Board;
4. In harmony with *Manual* provisions, to establish and maintain such schools and colleges or other institutions as they shall determine;
5. To be authorized to recruit and screen missionary candidates from the region in accordance with policy (345.3);
6. To plan Regional Advisory Council meetings and conferences for the region;
7. To facilitate National Boards as stipulated in paragraphs 344 and 345.3.

345.3. Regional Advisory Council (RAC). A region may have a Regional Advisory Council whose responsibilities will be to assist the regional director in strategy development for the region, to review and recommend approval or disapproval of all national board minutes before forwarding the same to the office of the general secretary, to interview missionary candidates for recommendation to the Global Mission office and/or for deployment as regional and General Board contracted missionaries, to receive reports from the re-

gional director, field strategy coordinators, and ministry coordinators, to elect missionary delegates to the General Assembly in accordance with provisions of the *Manual*, and to elect a principal/rector/president of an International Board of Education institution as a delegate to the General Assembly.

Membership of the RAC shall be flexible in order to shape the RAC according to the needs, development and requirements of the individual regions. The regional director will recommend the number of members of the RAC to the Global Mission office director and the general superintendent in jurisdiction for approval. Ex-officio members will be the general superintendent in jurisdiction of the region, the Global Mission office director and the regional director who will serve as chairperson. Global Mission office contracted personnel shall not be candidates for election to the RAC but may serve as resource persons. Members of the RAC will be elected by ballot by the regional caucus at the General Assembly. The RAC will fill any vacancy between General Assemblies.

The regional director, in consultation with the RAC, may convene a regional conference or area evangelism conference as needed. (38.5)

345.4. The Regional Director. Where deemed necessary a region may have a director elected by the Board of General Superintendents in consultation with the Global Mission office director, and ratified by the General Board, to work in harmony with the policies and practices of the Church of the Nazarene giving leadership to the districts, churches, and institutions of said region in fulfillment of the mission, strategies, and program of the church.

Prior to the reelection of a regional director, a review shall be conducted by the Global Mission office director and the general superintendent in jurisdiction, in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council. A positive review will constitute an endorsement for the recommendation for reelection.

Each regional director is to be administratively accountable to the Global Mission office, and the General Board, and in jurisdictional matters, accountable to the Board of General Superintendents.

345.5. The Field Strategy Coordinator. When consid-

ered necessary, the regional director could institute a field structure in the region, and recommend to the Global Mission office director the appointment of field strategy coordinators according to the *Global Mission Policy and Procedure Manual*. The field strategy coordinator would be responsible to the regional director.

345.6. Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee. The Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee (RCOSAC) shall be composed of the regional education coordinator, who may be ex-officio chairperson of the committee, plus representatives selected in consultation with the regional director. Members of the RCOSAC should represent all parties interested in ministerial education (i.e., pastors, administrators, educators, and laity) for the region.

345.7. Duties of the Regional Course of Study Advisory Committee (RCOSAC). The **principal duties of the RCOSAC** are:

1. To develop the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* (SOO) outlining the minimum educational standards for ordination on their region in the Church of the Nazarene. The regional SOO must reflect the minimum standards established in the *Manual* and elaborated in the *International Sourcebook on Developmental Standards for Ordination*;
2. To develop validation procedures for the ministerial educational programs of their region, to verify the programs meet the regional COSAC and ICOSAC minimum standards;
3. To collaborate with the regional educational providers to interpret these standards in ministerial education programs;
4. To review ministerial education program submissions for compliance with regional *Sourcebook* and *International Sourcebook* standards;
5. To endorse regional ministerial education programs to the International Course of Study Advisory Committee for adoption and approval.

CHAPTER IV

HIGHER EDUCATION

A. Church and College/University

380. The Church of the Nazarene, from its inception, has been committed to higher education. The church provides the college/university with students, administrative and faculty leadership, and financial and spiritual support. The college/university educates the church's youth and many of the church's adults, guides them toward spiritual maturity, enriches the church, and sends out into the world thinking, loving servants of Christ. The church college/university, while not a local congregation, is an integral part of the church; it is an expression of the church.

The Church of the Nazarene believes in the value and the dignity of human life and the need for providing an environment in which people can be redeemed and enriched spiritually, intellectually, and physically, "made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work" (2 Timothy 2:21). The primary task and traditional expressions of local church activity—evangelism, religious education, compassionate ministries, and services of worship—exemplify the church's love for God and concern for people.

At the local church level, the Christian education of youth and adults at various stages of human development intensifies the effectiveness of the gospel. Congregations may incorporate within their objectives and function childcare/school educational programs at any or all levels, from birth through secondary. At the general church level, the historic practice of providing institutions for higher education or ministerial preparation will be maintained. Wherever such institutions are operated, they shall function within the philosophical and theological framework of the Church of the Nazarene as established by the General Assembly and expressed through the *Manual*.

380.1. Educational Mission Statement. Education in the Church of the Nazarene, rooted in the biblical and theological commitments of the Wesleyan and holiness movements and accountable to the stated mission of the denomination, aims to guide those who look to it in accepting, in nurturing, and in expressing in service to the church and world consistent and coherent Christian understandings of social and individual life. Additionally, such institutions of higher education will seek to provide a curriculum, quality of instruction, and evidence of scholastic achievement that will adequately prepare graduates to function effectively in vocations and professions such graduates may choose.

380.2. General Assembly authorization, upon the recommendation of the International Board of Education, is required to establish degree granting institutions.

Authorization for the development or change of status of existing institutions may be granted by the General Board upon recommendation of the International Board of Education.

No local church or combination of churches, or persons representing a local church or group of churches, may establish or sponsor a post-secondary level or ministerial preparatory institution on behalf of the church, except upon the recommendation of the International Board of Education.

B. International Higher Education Council

381. There shall be an International Higher Education Council composed of the president, principal, rector, or director (or his/her designated representative) of each International Board of Education institution of the Church of the Nazarene, the regional education coordinators, the education commissioner, the Global Mission office director, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the International Board of Education.

C. International Board of Education

382. The International Board of Education shall be the general church advocate for educational institutions in the Church of the Nazarene worldwide.

This board shall be composed of thirteen members: eight elected by the General Board, plus five members ex-officio: the two education representatives on the General Board, the Global Mission office director, the Clergy Development director, and the education commissioner. A Nominating Committee composed of the education commissioner, the Global Mission office director, the two education representatives on the General Board, and the general superintendents in jurisdiction for the International Board of Education and Global Mission office shall present eight nominees approved by the Board of General Superintendents to the General Board for election.

In an effort to insure broad representation throughout the church, the Nominating Committee shall submit nominees as follows: one regional education coordinator; three laypersons; two assigned ordained ministers from Global Mission regions where no person who is an education coordinator has been nominated; two "at large" nominees. No Global Mission region shall have more than one elected member on the IBOE until each region has a representative.

Throughout the nominating and election process, attention shall be given to the election of persons with cross-cultural perspective and/or experience as educators.

The **functions of the International Board of Education** are:

382.1. To insure that institutions are under the legal control of their respective governing boards whose constitutions and bylaws shall conform to their respective charters or articles of incorporation and that shall be in harmony with the guidelines set by the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.*

382.2. To insure that members of governing boards of Nazarene institutions shall be members of the Church of the Nazarene in good standing. They are to be in full accord with the *Articles of Faith*, including the doctrine of entire sanctification and the usages of the Church of the Nazarene as set forth in the *Manual* of the church. Insofar as possible, the membership of the higher education boards of control shall have an equal number of ministers and laity.

382.3. To receive such funds as may be contributed to it

for educational purposes through gifts, bequests, and donations, and shall annually recommend allocations from these funds to each educational institution in accordance with policy adopted by the General Board. Institutions shall not continue to receive regular support unless their education standards, plan of organization, and financial reports are filed with the International Board of Education.

382.4. To receive and deal appropriately with a yearly report from the education commissioner summarizing the following information from all International Board of Education institutions: (1) annual statistical report, (2) annual audit report, and (3) annual fiscal budgets for the upcoming year.

382.5. To recommend and to provide support and advocacy, although its role is advisory to the institutions, to the Board of General Superintendents and to the General Board.

382.6. To serve the church in matters pertaining to Nazarene educational institutions in order to strengthen the bonds between the institutions and the church at large.

382.7. To submit its business and recommendations to the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board for ratification in the same manner as is the business and recommendations of committees of the General Board.

383. All institutional constitutions and bylaws must include an article on dissolution and disposal of assets indicating that the Church of the Nazarene shall receive such assets to be used for educational services for the church.

PART V

Ministry and Christian Service

CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTER

CATEGORIES AND ROLES OF MINISTRY

EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS

CREDENTIALS AND MINISTERIAL REGULATIONS

CHAPTER I

CALL AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTER[1]

400. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes and insists that all believers have committed to them a dispensation of the gospel that they are to minister to all people.

We also recognize and hold that the Head of the Church calls some men and women to the more official and public work of the ministry. As our Lord called to Him whom He would, and chose and ordained His 12 apostles "that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach" (Mark 3:14), so He still calls and sends out messengers of the gospel. The church, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, will recognize the Lord's call.

The church also recognizes on the basis of Scripture and experience that God calls individuals to a lifetime of ministry who do not witness to a specific call to preach.

When the church discovers a divine call, the proper steps should be taken for its recognition and endorsement, and all suitable help should be given to open the way for the candidate to enter the ministry.

401. Theology of Ordination. While affirming the scriptural tenet of the universal priesthood and ministry of all believers, ordination reflects the biblical belief that God calls out and gifts certain men and women for ministerial leadership in His Church. Ordination is the authenticating,

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1. The *Manual* Editing Committee, in recognition of the validity of the opening words of paragraph 400, has attempted to use language that reflects this distinctive. However, due to the nature of this section of the *Manual,* the terms "minister" or "the minister" will usually refer to a person holding credentials, whether licensed, ordained, or commissioned.

authorizing act of the Church, which recognizes and confirms God's call to ministerial leadership as stewards and proclaimers of both the gospel and the Church of Jesus Christ. Consequently, ordination bears witness to the Church universal and the world at large that this candidate evidences an exemplary life of holiness, possesses gifts and graces for public ministry, has a thirst for knowledge, especially for the Word of God, and has the capacity to communicate clearly sound doctrine.

(Acts 13:1-3; 20:28; Romans 1:1-2; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 5:22)

401.1. The perpetuity and efficiency of the Church of the Nazarene depend largely upon the spiritual qualifications, the character, and the manner of life of its ministers. (433.14)

401.2. The minister of Christ is to be in all things a pattern to the flock—in punctuality, discretion, diligence, earnestness; "in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left" (2 Corinthians 6:6-7).

401.3. The minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene must have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and be sanctified wholly by the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The minister must have a deep sense of the fact that souls for whom Christ died are perishing, and that he or she is called of God to proclaim or make known to them the glad tidings of salvation.

401.4. The minister must likewise have a deep sense of the necessity of believers going on to perfection and developing the Christian graces in practical living, that their "love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight" (Philippians 1:9). One who would minister in the Church of the Nazarene must have a strong appreciation of both salvation and Christian ethics.

401.5. The minister should respond to opportunities to mentor future ministers and to nurture the call to ministry of those who have obvious gifts and graces for ministry or who are hearing the call of God to Christian ministry.

401.6. The minister must have gifts, as well as graces, for the work. He or she will have a thirst for knowledge, especially of the Word of God, and must have sound judgment, good understanding, and clear views concerning the plan of redemption and salvation as revealed in the Scriptures. Saints will be edified and sinners converted through his or her ministry. Further, the minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene must be an example in prayer.

CHAPTER II

CATEGORIES AND ROLES OF MINISTRY

A. The Lay Minister

402. All Christians should consider themselves ministers of Christ and seek to know the will of God concerning their appropriate avenues of service. (400)

402.1. Any member of the Church of the Nazarene who feels called to serve as a church planter, bivocational pastor, teacher, lay evangelist, lay song evangelist, stewardship minister, church staff minister, and/or other specialized ministry on behalf of the church, but who does not at the present time feel a special call to become an ordained minister, may pursue a validated course of study leading to a certificate of lay ministry.

402.2. The local church board, upon the recommendation of the pastor, shall initially examine the lay minister as to personal experience of salvation, effective involvement in church ministries, and knowledge of the work of the church, and satisfy itself as to the lay minister's qualifications for such ministry.

402.3. The local church board may issue to each lay minister candidate a certificate signed by the pastor and the secretary of the church board.

402.4. The certificate of the lay minister may be renewed annually by the church board upon the recommendation of the pastor, if the lay minister has completed at least two subjects in the lay ministry educational program as outlined by the Continuing Lay Training. The lay minister shall report annually to the church board.

402.5. For a lay minister serving under district assignment as church planter, supply pastor, bivocational pastor, and/or other specialized ministry, upon completion of a vali-

dated course of study, a certificate of lay ministry may be issued by the District Advisory Board, signed by the district superintendent and the secretary of the District Advisory Board. The certificate of lay ministry may be renewed annually by the District Advisory Board upon the recommendation of the district superintendent.

402.6. The lay minister serving outside the local church where he or she is a member shall be subject to the appointment and supervision of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and shall report annually to them. When district assignment shall cease, reference shall be made back to the local church in which the lay minister holds membership for renewal and reporting.

402.7. After completion of a lay ministry validated course of study, a lay minister shall proceed in a specialized concentration of study according to his or her chosen ministry.[1] The provision for grading and recording the same will be made at the Continuing Lay Training office.

402.8. A lay minister shall not be eligible to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and shall not officiate at marriages.

B. Ministry of the Clergy

403. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes only one order of the preaching ministry, that of the elder. It also recognizes that the member of the clergy may serve the church in various capacities. Christ has called "some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:11-12). The church recognizes the following categories of service in which a district assembly may place an elder, deacon, or, as circumstances warrant, a licensed minister: pastor, evangelist, missionary, teacher, administrator, chaplain, and special service. Service within these categories

1. A list of approved courses is available online from the Church of the Nazarene Global Ministry Center through the Continuing Lay Training office of Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International.

that qualifies as being an "assigned minister" would include that service for which ministerial training and ordination are normally required, or greatly desired. The *Sourcebook on Ordination* shall provide guidelines for each category of ministry that will aid district boards in identifying the qualifications necessary for consideration to be an assigned minister. Only assigned ministers shall be voting members of the district assembly.

403.1. All persons assigned to a particular role shall file a report annually to the assigning district assembly.

403.2. All persons assigned to a particular role may request and obtain annually from the assigning district a certificate of their role of service, signed by the district superintendent and the district secretary.

403.3. All persons assigned to a particular role of ministry, when placed on disability by approved medical authority, may be listed as "assigned disabled."

The roles of ministry are listed in alphabetical order for convenience.

C. The Administrator

404. The elder or a deacon who is an administrator is one who has been elected by the General Assembly as a general official; or a member of the clergy who has been elected or employed by the General Board to serve in the general church; or an elder who has been elected by the district assembly as district superintendent; or a member of the clergy who has been elected or employed as his or her primary assignment in the service of a district. Such person is an assigned minister.

D. The Chaplain

405. The elder or deacon who is a chaplain is one who feels divinely led to specialized ministry in military, institutional, or industrial chaplaincy. All chaplains must be approved by their district superintendent. Persons applying for career or career assignment in the U.S.A. military chaplaincy must appear before the Chaplaincy Advisory Council and the Board of General Superintendents. The chaplain who

serves in this ministry as his or her primary assignment and who does not sustain a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments or institutions, shall be an assigned minister, and shall report annually to the district assembly and give due regard to the advice and counsel of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. The chaplain may receive associate members into the Church of the Nazarene in consultation with an officially organized Church of the Nazarene, administer the sacraments in harmony with the *Manual*, give pastoral care, comfort the sorrowing, reprove and encourage and seek by all means the conversion of sinners, sanctification of believers, and the upbuilding of the people of God in the most holy faith. (417, 435.9, 435.11)

E. The Deaconess

406. A woman who is a member of the Church of the Nazarene and believes that she is divinely led to engage in ministering to the sick and the needy, comforting the sorrowing, and doing other works of Christian benevolence, and who has given evidence in her life of ability, grace, and usefulness, and who was in the years preceding 1985 licensed or consecrated as a deaconess shall continue in such standing. However, those women called to active and assigned ministry but not called to preach shall complete the requirements for ordination to the order of deacon. Women desiring a credential for compassionate ministries may pursue the requirements for lay minister. (113.9, 402-2.8)

F. The Educator

407. The elder, deacon, or licensed minister is one who is an educator employed to serve on the administrative staff or faculty of one of the educational institutions of the Church of the Nazarene. The district shall designate such a person as an educator for their ministry assignment.

G. The Evangelist

408. The elder or licensed minister who is an evangelist is one devoted to traveling and preaching the gospel, and who

is authorized by the church to promote revivals and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ abroad in the land. The Church of the Nazarene recognizes three levels of itinerant evangelism to which a district assembly may assign ministers: registered evangelist, commissioned evangelist, and tenured evangelist. An evangelist who dedicates time to evangelism, outside his or her local church as his or her primary assignment and who does not sustain a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments or institutions, shall be an assigned minister.

408.1. A registered evangelist is an elder, or a district licensed minister, who has indicated a desire to pursue evangelism as his or her primary ministry. Such registration shall be for one year. Renewal by subsequent district assemblies shall be granted on both the quality and quantity of work in evangelism in the year prior to the assembly.

408.2. A commissioned evangelist is an elder who has met all the requirements of a registered evangelist for two complete years. The commission is for one year and may be renewed by subsequent district assemblies for one who continues to meet the requirements.

408.3. A tenured evangelist is an elder who has met all the requirements of a commissioned evangelist for four complete and consecutive years immediately prior to application for tenured evangelist status, and has been recommended by the District Ministerial Credentials Board and approved by the Committee on the Interests of the God-Called Evangelist and the Board of General Superintendents. This role designation shall continue until such time as the evangelist no longer meets the requirements of a commissioned evangelist, or until he or she is granted retired status. (228.2, 433)

408.4. A regular self-assessment and review similar to the church/pastoral review shall be conducted by the evangelist and district superintendent together at least every four years after the election to the tenured role. The district superintendent shall be responsible for scheduling and conducting the meeting. This meeting shall be scheduled in consultation with the evangelist. Upon completion of the review, a report of the results shall be forwarded to the Committee on the In-

terests of the God-Called Evangelist to evaluate qualification requirements for continued approval. (208.20)

408.5. An elder or licensed minister who sustains a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments, and who wishes to perform a ministerial function through revivals or evangelistic meetings, may receive certification for “retired evangelism service.” Such certification shall be for one year, shall be voted by the district assembly upon recommendation by the district superintendent, and may be renewed by subsequent district assemblies on the basis of actual work in evangelism in the year prior to the assembly.

408.6. An elder or licensed minister desiring to enter the field of evangelism between district assemblies may be recognized by the general office of Clergy Development upon recommendation of the district superintendent. The registration or commission shall be voted by the district assembly upon recommendation by the district superintendent.

408.7. Guidelines and procedures for certification of evangelists’ roles will be contained in the *Sourcebook on Ordination.*

H. The Minister of Christian Education

409. A member of the clergy employed in a ministerial capacity in a Christian education program of a local church may be assigned as a minister of Christian education.

409.1. A person who was, in the years preceding 1985, licensed or commissioned as a minister of Christian education, shall continue in good standing. However, those persons desiring to begin the pursuit of the role of minister of Christian education may complete the requirements for ordination to the order of deacon as their credential for this ministry.

I. The Minister of Music

410. A member of the Church of the Nazarene who feels called to the ministry of music may be commissioned as a minister of music for one year by the district assembly, provided such person (1) has been recommended for such work by the church board of the local church in which membership is held; (2) gives evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; (3)

has had at least one year of experience in music ministry; (4) has had not less than one year of vocal study under an accredited teacher and is pursuing a validated course of study or its equivalent prescribed for ministers of music or has completed the same; (5) is regularly engaged as a minister of music; (6) has been carefully examined, under the direction of the district assembly of the assembly district within the bounds of which the person holds his or her church membership, regarding his or her intellectual and spiritual qualifications, and general fitness for such work. (203.10)

410.1. Only such persons who maintain this ministry as their primary assignment and vocation and have ministerial credentials shall be considered assigned ministers.

J. The Missionary

411. The missionary is a member of the clergy or a layperson who has been appointed by the General Board to minister for the church through the Global Mission Committee. A missionary with an appointment and having a ministerial credential shall be considered an assigned minister.

K. The Pastor

412. A pastor is a minister (115) who, under the call of God and His people, has the oversight of a local church. A pastor in charge of a local church is an assigned minister. (210)

413. The **core duties of a pastor** are:

413.1. To pray.

413.2. To preach the Word.

413.3. To equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

413.4. To administer the sacraments.

413.5. To care for the people by pastoral visitation, particularly the sick and needy.

413.6. To comfort those who mourn.

413.7. To correct, rebuke, and encourage, with great patience and careful instruction.

413.8. To seek, by all means, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of the converted, and the upbuilding of God's people in the most holy faith. (25)

413.9. To administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at least once a quarter. Pastors are encouraged to move toward a more frequent celebration of this means of grace. A licensed minister who has not complied fully with the provisions of 429.7 (see also 802) shall arrange for the administration of the sacrament by an ordained minister. Consideration should be given for extending the Lord's Supper to homebound persons, under supervision of the pastor.

413.10. To nurture the call that people feel toward Christian ministry and to mentor such persons as are called. This shall include guiding them toward appropriate preparation for ministry.

413.11. To fulfill the expectations of God and the Church for a program of lifelong learning. (435.15)

413.12. To nurture his or her own call through the years of ministry, to maintain a life of personal devotion that enriches his or her own soul, and, if married, to guard the integrity and vitality of that marriage relationship.

414. The **administrative duties of a pastor** are:

414.1. To receive persons as members of the local church according to 107 and 107.1.

414.2. To have the care of all departments of local church work.

414.3. To appoint the teachers of the Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups in harmony with 145.8.

414.4. To read to the congregation the Constitution of the Church of the Nazarene and the Covenant of Christian Conduct contained in 1-27, 33-39, both inclusive, within each year (114), or have this section of the *Manual* printed and distributed annually to the members of the church.

414.5. To supervise the preparation of all statistical reports from all departments of the local church, and present promptly all such reports through the district secretary to the district assembly. (114.1)

414.6. To give leadership to the evangelism, education, devotion, and expansion programs of the local church in harmony with the district and general church promotional goals and programs.

414.7. To submit a report to the annual church meeting,

including a report on the status of the local church and its departments, and an outline of areas of future needs with recommendations for reference by the church to any of its officers or departments for study and/or implementation in future steps for growth and progress.

414.8. To appoint an investigating committee of three church members in case of accusation filed against a church member. (504)

414.9. To see that all World Evangelism Fund monies raised through the local NMI are remitted promptly to the general treasurer; and that all District Ministries Fund monies are remitted promptly to the district treasurer. (136.2)

414.10. To nominate to the church board all persons who are paid employees of the local church, and to have supervision of the same. (160.1-60.3)

414.11. To sign in conjunction with the church secretary all conveyances of real estate, mortgages, releases of mortgages, contracts, and other legal documents not otherwise provided for in the *Manual*. (102.3, 103-4.3)

414.12. To notify the pastor of the nearest church when a member or friend of a local church or any of its departments moves to another locality in the same assembly district where vital association with the previous local church is impractical, giving the member's or friend's address.

414.13. To arrange, together with the church board, according to plans adopted by the General Assembly and agreed to by the district assembly, for the raising of the World Evangelism Fund and District Ministries Fund apportionments made to the local church; and to raise these apportionments. (38.2, 130, 154)

414.14. The pastor may, when requested by a member, grant a transfer of church membership, a certificate of commendation, or a letter of release. (111-11.1, 112.2, 813.3-13.6)

414.15. The pastor shall be, ex-officio, president of the local church, chairperson of the church board, and a member of all elected and standing boards and committees of the church he or she serves. The pastor shall have access to all records of the local church. (127, 145, 150, 152, 153.1)

415. The pastor shall have the right to a voice in the nomination of all heads of all departments of the local church, and any Nazarene childcare/school (birth through secondary) organization.

416. The pastor shall not contract bills, create financial obligations, count moneys, or disburse funds for the local church unless authorized and directed by majority vote of the church board or by majority vote of a church meeting; such action, if taken, must be approved in writing by the District Advisory Board and shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the church board or of the church meeting. No pastor or any member of his or her immediate family shall be authorized to sign checks on any church account except upon the written approval of the district superintendent. Immediate family shall include spouse, children, siblings, or parents. (129.1, 129.21-29.22)

417. The pastor shall always show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (222.2, 435.2)

418. In case a licensed or ordained minister presenting a credential from another denomination shall, during the interim of sessions of the district assembly, make application for membership in a local church, the pastor may not receive such applicant without first having obtained the favorable recommendation of the District Advisory Board. (107, 225)

419. For the exercise of this office the pastor shall be amenable to the district assembly, to which he or she shall report annually and give brief testimony to his or her personal Christian experience. (203.3, 429.8, 435.9)

420. The pastor shall automatically become a member of the church of which he or she is pastor; or, in case of more than one church in his or her charge, of the church of his or her choice. (435.8)

421. Pastoral Service includes the ministry of a pastor or an associate pastor, who may serve in specialized areas of ministry recognized and approved by the appropriate governing, licensing and endorsing agencies. A member of the clergy called to any of these levels of pastoral service in connection with a church may be considered an assigned minister.

422. Supply Pastors. A district superintendent shall have the power to appoint a supply pastor, who shall serve subject to the following regulations:

1. A supply pastor may be a Nazarene member of the clergy serving in some other assignment, a local minister or a lay minister of the Church of the Nazarene, a minister in process of transfer from another denomination, or a minister who belongs to another denomination.
2. A supply pastor shall be appointed temporarily to fill the pulpit and to provide a spiritual ministry, but shall not have authority to administer the sacraments or to perform marriages unless that authority adheres to him or her on some other basis, and he or she shall not perform the administrative function of the pastor except in the filing of reports, unless authorized to do so by the district superintendent.
3. A supply pastor's church membership shall not be automatically transferred to the church where he or she is serving.
4. A supply pastor shall be a nonvoting member of the district assembly unless he or she is a voting member by some other right.
5. A supply pastor may be removed or replaced at any time by the district superintendent.

L. The Interim Pastor

423. An elder may be approved by the district assembly as district interim assigned (DIA) by the recommendation of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board, and will serve when called upon by the district superintendent and a local church board. (209.1)

M. The Song Evangelist

424. A song evangelist is a member of the Church of the Nazarene whose intention is to devote the major portion of his or her time to the ministry of evangelism through music. A song evangelist who has a ministerial credential and who is involved in active ministry and has evangelism as his or

her primary assignment, and who does not sustain a retired relationship with the church or any of its departments or institutions, shall be an assigned minister.

424.1. Guidelines and procedures for certification of song evangelists' roles are contained in the *Sourcebook for Ministerial Development*.

N. Special Service

425. A member of the clergy in active service not otherwise provided for shall be appointed to special service, if such service is approved by the district assembly, and shall be listed by the district as an assigned minister.

425.1. An elder or deacon employed in a ministerial capacity as an officer in a church-related organization serving the church, or approved upon careful evaluation of his or her district assembly to serve with an educational institution, evangelistic, or missionary organization not directly related to the church, may be appointed to special service subject to 435.11.

CHAPTER III

EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS

A. For Ministers

426. Ministerial education is designed to assist in the preparation of God-called ministers whose service is vital to the expansion and extension of the holiness message into new areas of evangelistic opportunity. We recognize the importance of a clear understanding of our mission "to make Christlike disciples in the nations" based on Christ's commission to His Church in Matthew 28:19-20. Much of the preparation is primarily theological and biblical in character, leading toward ordination in the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene. The District Ministerial Studies Board shall determine the placement and evaluate the progress of each student in his or her validated course of study.

426.1. Fulfillment of Educational Foundations for Ordained Ministry. A variety of educational institutions and programs are provided around the world by the Church of the Nazarene. The resources of some global areas allow more than one program to be developed to provide the educational foundations for ministry. The normal expectation is that each student will take advantage of the most appropriate validated course of study provided by the Church in his or her area of the world. In some instances the particular circumstances of the student may make the ideal impossible. The Church will utilize as much flexibility in delivery systems as is feasible to make adequate preparation available to every person called by God to ministry in the Church. A validated course of study, directed and supervised by the District Ministerial Studies Board, and college/seminary programs, developed by the educational institutions,

may be used. They should cover the same general standards as outlined in the *International Sourcebook on Developmental Standards for Ordination* and the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*. When a licensed minister satisfactorily completes a validated course of study, the education provider shall issue a certificate of completion to the licensed minister. The licensed minister shall present the certificate of completion to the District Ministerial Studies Board responsible for considering recommendation to the district assembly for graduation from a validated course of study.

426.2. Cultural Adaptations for the Educational Foundations for Ordained Ministry. The variety of cultural contexts around the world makes one curriculum unsuited for all global areas. Each region of the world will be responsible for the development of specific curricular requirements for providing the educational foundations for ministry in a way that reflects the resources and the expectations of that global area. Approval of the International Course of Study Advisory Committee, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents (426.5) will be required before implementing a regionally designed program for providing educational foundations for ministry. Even within global regions there are varieties of cultural expectations and resources. As a result, cultural sensitivity and flexibility will characterize regional provisions for the educational foundations for ministry, which shall be directed and supervised by the District Ministerial Studies Board. Cultural adaptations of each region's program for providing educational foundations for ministry will be approved by Clergy Development and the International Course of Study Advisory Committee in consultation with the regional educational coordinator.

426.3. General Curriculum Areas for Ministerial Preparation. Though curriculum is often thought of only as academic programs and course content the concept is much larger. The character of the instructor, the relationship of the students and instructor, the environment, and students' past experiences join with the course content to create the full curriculum. Nevertheless, a curriculum for

ministerial preparation will include a minimal set of courses that provide educational foundations for ministry.

Cultural differences and a variety of resources will require differing details in curriculum structures. However, all programs for providing educational foundations for the ordained ministry that seek approval by Clergy Development should give careful attention to content, competency, character, and context. The purpose of a validated course of study is to contain courses that include all four elements in varying degrees and that will help ministers fulfill the mission statement of the Church of the Nazarene as agreed upon by the Board of General Superintendents as follows:

> "The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to make Christlike disciples in the nations."
>
> "The primary objective of the Church of the Nazarene is to advance God's Kingdom by the preservation and propagation of Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures."
>
> "The critical objectives of the Church of the Nazarene are 'holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church, together with the preaching of the gospel to every creature'" (25).

A validated course of study is described in the following categories:

- Content—Knowledge of the content of the Old and New Testaments, the theology of the Christian faith, and the history and mission of the Church is essential for ministry. Knowledge of how to interpret Scripture, the doctrine of holiness and our Wesleyan distinctives, and the history and polity of the Church of the Nazarene must be included in these courses.
- Competency—Skills in oral and written communication; management and leadership; finance; and analytical thinking are also essential for ministry. In addition to general education in these areas courses providing skills in preaching, pastoral care and counseling, bibli-

cal exegesis, worship, effective evangelism, biblical stewardship of life resources, Christian education and Church administration must be included. Graduation from a validated course of study requires the partnering of the educational provider and a local church to direct students in ministerial practices and competency development.

- Character—Personal growth in character, ethics, spirituality, and personal and family relationship is vital for the ministry. Courses addressing the areas of Christian ethics, spiritual formation, human development, the person of the minister, and marriage and family dynamics must be included.
- Context—The minister must understand both the historical and contemporary context and interpret the worldview and social environment of the culture where the Church witnesses. Courses that address the concerns of anthropology and sociology, cross-cultural communication, missions, and social studies must be included.

426.4. Preparation for the ordained ministry pursued in non-Nazarene schools or under non-Nazarene auspices shall be evaluated by the District Ministerial Studies Board in conformity with the curricular requirements stated in a *Sourcebook on Ordination* developed by the region/language group.

426.5. All courses, academic requirements, and official administrative regulations shall be in a regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* developed by the region/language group in cooperation with Clergy Development. This regional *Sourcebook* and such revisions as become necessary shall be endorsed by the International Course of Study Advisory Committee and approved by Clergy Development, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents. The *Sourcebook* shall be in compliance with the *Manual* and with the *International Sourcebook on Developmental Standards for Ordination*, produced by Clergy Development with the International Course of Study Advisory Committee. The International Course of Study Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Board of General Superintendents.

426.6. Once a minister has fulfilled the requirements of a validated course of study for ministry, he or she will continue a pattern of lifelong learning to enhance the ministry to which God has called him or her. A minimum expectation is 20 contact hours each year (2 accredited Continuing Education Units {CEUs}) or the equivalent determined by the region/language group and stated in their regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*. All assigned and unassigned licensed and ordained ministers shall report on their progress in a program of lifelong learning as part of their report to the district assembly. An up-to-date report on his or her lifelong learning program will be used in the church/pastoral review process and in the process of calling a pastor. The regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* for the region/language group will contain the details of the accrediting and reporting process. At least 20 contact hours or its equivalent are expected annually. (115, 123, 413.11, 435.15)

B. General Guidelines for Preparation for Christian Ministry

427. General guidelines for preparation for Christian ministry are:

427.1. A validated course of study, together with the necessary procedures concerning their completion for those seeking a credential as elder and deacon or certification in categories and roles of ministry, are to be found in the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination.*

427.2. In regions administratively related to the Global Mission office, all validated courses of study, as stated in the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination* will be governed by the regional *Sourcebook on Ordination*. (426.2-26.3, 426.5)

CHAPTER IV

CREDENTIALS AND MINISTERIAL REGULATIONS

A. The Local Minister

428. A local minister is a lay member of the Church of the Nazarene whom the local church board has licensed for ministry, under the pastor's direction, and as opportunity affords, thus providing for the demonstration, employment, and development of ministerial gifts and usefulness. He or she is entering into a process of lifelong learning.

428.1. Any member of the Church of the Nazarene who feels called of God to preach or to pursue lifetime ministry through the church may be licensed as a local minister for one year by the church board of a local church having an ordained minister as pastor, upon the pastor's recommendation; or by the church board of a local church not having an ordained minister as pastor, if the granting of license is recommended by the pastor and approved by the district superintendent. The candidate must first be examined as to his or her personal experience of salvation, knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible, and the order of the church; he or she must also demonstrate that the call is evidenced by grace, gifts, and usefulness. A local minister shall make a report to the local church at its annual church meetings. (113.9, 129.12, 208.12)

428.2. The church board shall issue to each local minister a license signed by the pastor and the secretary of the church board. Where a church is supplied by a person who does not have a district license, that person may be issued a local minister's license, or the renewal of license, by the District Advisory Board upon the recommendation of the district superintendent. (208.12, 222.10)

428.3. The license of a local minister may be renewed by the church board of a local church having an elder as pastor, upon the recommendation of the pastor; or by the church board of a local church not having an elder as pastor, provided that the renewal of license is recommended by the pastor and approved by the district superintendent. (129.12, 208.12)

428.4. Local ministers shall pursue a validated course of study for ministers under the direction of the District Ministerial Studies Board. Local license cannot be renewed after two years without the written approval of the district superintendent if the local minister has not completed at least two courses in the required studies in a validated course of study.

428.5. A local minister, having served in that relation for at least one full year, and having passed the necessary studies, may be recommended by the church board to the district assembly for minister's license; but, if not received, he or she shall sustain his or her former relation. (129.12, 426, 429.1)

428.6. A local minister who has been appointed as supply pastor must be approved by the Ministerial Credentials Board if he or she continues this service after the district assembly following the appointment. (209, 228.5, 422)

428.7. A local minister shall not be eligible to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and shall not officiate at marriages. (429.7)

B. The Licensed Minister

429. A licensed minister is one whose ministerial calling and gifts have been formally recognized by the district assembly through the granting of a ministerial license, authorizing the minister for, and appointing him or her to, a larger sphere of service and to greater rights and responsibilities than those pertaining to a local minister, normally as a step toward ordination as an elder or a deacon. The district ministerial license shall include a statement indicating whether the minister is preparing for ordination as an elder or a deacon or a district license not leading to ordination. (429.7)

429.1. When there are members of the Church of the Naz-

arene who acknowledge a call to a lifetime of ministry, they may be licensed as ministers by the district assembly provided they (1) have held a local minister's license for one full year; (2) have completed one-fourth of a validated course of study for ministers, or have passed the Nazarene history and polity courses and five additional courses in a validated course of study for ministers, or if enrolled in a Nazarene college/university or seminary, have completed one-fourth of a validated college/university or college/university-seminary course of study for ministry, or have completed one-fourth of a validated district or regional training center curriculum. Exceptions to this requirement may be made by the District Ministerial Credentials Board provided the candidate is pastoring an organized church and is registered in a system of approved studies, and provided the candidate annually fulfills the minimum amount of studies required by the *Manual* for the renewal of a license, and provided the district superintendent approves the exception; (3) have been recommended for such work by the church board of the local church of which they are members, to which recommendation shall be attached the Application for Minister's License carefully filled in; (4) have given evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; (5) have been carefully examined, under the direction of the district assembly of the district within the bounds of which they hold their church membership, regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work, including appropriate background checks as determined by the District Advisory Board. In the case where a background check reveals criminal misconduct prior to one's salvation, this fact should not be interpreted by the District Ministerial Credentials Board as automatically excluding the applicant from credentialed ministry, except under the provisions of paragraph 437.8; (6) have promised to pursue immediately a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination; (7) have had any disqualification, which may have been imposed by a district assembly, removed by an explanation in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board of the district where the disqualification was imposed; and pro-

vided further that their marriage relationship does not render them ineligible for a district license or ordination; and (8) in case of a previous divorce and remarriage, the recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board along with supporting documents will be given to the general superintendent in jurisdiction, which may remove this as a barrier to pursuing a license or ordination. (35.1-5.3, 129.14, 205.6, 428.5)

429.2. Licensed ministers from other denominations, desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, may be licensed as ministers by the district assembly, provided they present the credentials issued to them by the denomination in which they formerly held their membership; and further provided that they (1) have passed a course of study equivalent to a validated course of study in the Church of the Nazarene for local ministers; (2) have been recommended by the church board of the local Church of the Nazarene of which they are members; (3) have given evidence of grace, gifts, and usefulness; (4) have been carefully examined under the direction of the district assembly regarding their spiritual, intellectual, and other fitness for such work; and (5) have promised to pursue immediately a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination. (203.6)

429.3. A minister's license shall terminate with the close of the next district assembly. It may be renewed by vote of the district assembly, provided (1) that the candidate for renewal shall file with the district assembly the Application for Minister's License carefully filled in; and provided (2) that the candidate shall have completed at least two courses in a validated course of study; and provided (3) that the candidate has been recommended for the renewal of license by the church board of the local church of which he or she is a member, upon the nomination of the pastor. In case, however, he or she shall not have passed a validated course of study required, the license may be renewed by the district assembly only upon submission of a written explanation for this failure. Such explanation shall be satisfactory to the District Ministerial Credentials Board and approved by the

general superintendent presiding. The district assembly may, for cause and at its discretion, vote against the renewal of a minister's license.

Licensed ministers who have graduated from a validated course of study and have been placed in retired relation by the district assembly shall, with the recommendation of the District Advisory Board, have their license renewed without the filing of an Application for Minister's License. (203.4)

429.4. To qualify for ordination, candidates must achieve graduation from a validated course of study within 10 years from the granting of the first district license. Any exception, due to unusual circumstances, may be granted by the Ministerial Credentials Board, subject to the approval of the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

A licensed minister who is not pursuing ordination or who is disqualified from ordination for failure to complete a validated course of study within the prescribed time limit may be granted renewal of minister's license upon recommendation of the District Advisory Board and the Ministerial Credentials Board.

429.5. In the case of licensed ministers who are serving as pastors, the recommendation for the renewal of minister's license shall be made by the District Advisory Board rather than by the local church board. (222.10)

429.6. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall issue to each licensed minister a minister's license, bearing the signature of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, the district superintendent, and the district secretary.

429.7. Licensed ministers shall be vested with authority to preach the Word and/or to use their gifts and graces in various associate ministries in servant ministry to the Body of Christ; and, provided they pass annually the required studies in a validated educational program and are acting as pastors, or are involved in an active and assigned ministry recognized by the district on which their membership is held, they shall also be vested with authority to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper in their own congregations, and to officiate at marriages where

the laws of the state do not prohibit. (35.2, 409-10, 413, 413.4, 413.9, 421, 430-30.2, 431-31.2, 800, 802, 803)

429.8. All licensed ministers shall hold their ministerial membership in the district assembly of the district wherein their church membership is held, and shall report to this body annually. (201, 203.3, 419)

429.9. In case a licensed minister has united with a church or denomination other than the Church of the Nazarene, or engaged in other Christian ministry without the approval of the District Advisory Board of the assembly district in which he or she holds ministerial membership, or the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents, his or her church membership and ministerial membership in the Church of the Nazarene shall, because of that fact, immediately cease. The district assembly shall cause to be entered into its minute record the following statement: "Removed from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene by uniting with another church, denomination, or ministry." (107, 112)

C. The Deacon

430. A deacon is a minister whose call of God to Christian ministry, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience, who has been separated to the service of Christ by a vote of a district assembly and by the solemn act of ordination, and who has been invested to perform certain functions of Christian ministry.

430.1. The deacon does not witness to a specific call to preach. The church recognizes, on the basis of Scripture and experience, that God calls individuals to lifetime ministry who do not witness to such a specific call, and believes that individuals so called to such ministries should be recognized and confirmed by the church and should meet requirements, and be granted responsibilities, established by the church. This is a permanent order of ministry.

430.2. The deacon must meet the requirements of the order for education, exhibit the appropriate gifts and graces, and be recognized and confirmed by the church. The deacon shall be vested with the authority to administer the sacra-

ments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to officiate at marriages where the laws of the state do not prohibit, and on occasion to conduct worship and to preach. It is understood that the Lord and the church may use this person's gifts and graces in various associate ministries. As a symbol of the servant ministry of the Body of Christ, the deacon may also use his or her gifts in roles outside the institutional church. (35.2)

430.3. One who is called of God to this ministry who currently holds a district license, and who has at one time held a license for not less than three consecutive years and recommended for renewal of district license by the church board of the local church in which he or she holds membership or by the District Advisory Board. Further the candidate has fulfilled all the requirements of the church for the same, has successfully completed a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination as deacon, and has been carefully considered and favorably reported by the Ministerial Credentials Board to the district assembly. The candidate may be elected to the order of deacon by two-thirds vote of the district assembly; provided he or she has been an assigned minister not less than three consecutive years; and provided further that the candidate must currently be serving in an assigned ministry. In the case of part-time assignment, it should be understood that there should be an extension of the consecutive years of in-service time, depending on their level of involvement in local church ministry, and that their testimony and service demonstrate that their call to ministry is primary to all other pursuits. Further, any disqualification that may have been imposed by a district assembly has been removed in writing by the district superintendent and District Advisory Board of said district; and provided further that his or her marriage relationship does not render him or her ineligible for ordination. (35.1-35.3, 203.6, 320, 426)

430.4. If in the pursuance of his or her ministry, the ordained deacon feels called to the preaching ministry, he or she may be ordained elder upon completion of the requirements for that credential and the return of the deacon credential.

D. The Elder

431. An elder is a minister whose call of God to preach, gifts, and usefulness have been demonstrated and enhanced by proper training and experience, and who has been separated to the service of Christ through His church by the vote of a district assembly and by the solemn act of ordination, and thus has been fully invested to perform all functions of the Christian ministry.

431.1. We recognize but one order of preaching ministry—that of elder. This is a permanent order in the church. The elder is to rule well in the church, to preach the Word, to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to solemnize matrimony, all in the name of, and in subjection to, Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church. (35.2, 412-13.3, 413.9, 435.12)

431.2. The church expects that one called to this official ministry should be a steward of the Word and give full energy through a lifetime to its proclamation.

431.3. One who is called of God to this ministry who currently holds a district license, and who has at one time held a license for not less than three consecutive years and recommended for renewal of district license by the church board of the local church in which he or she holds membership or by the District Advisory Board. Further the candidate has fulfilled all the requirements of the church for the same, has successfully completed a validated course of study prescribed for licensed ministers and candidates for ordination as elder, and has been carefully considered and favorably reported by the Ministerial Credentials Board of the district assembly. The candidate may be elected to the order of elder by two-thirds vote of the district assembly. To be eligible for election, the candidate must have been an assigned minister for not less than three consecutive years, and the candidate must currently be serving in an assigned ministry. In the case of part-time assignment, it should be understood that there should be an extension of the consecutive years of in-service time, depending on their level of involvement in local church ministry, and that their testimo-

ny and service demonstrate that their call to ministry is primary to all other pursuits. Further, any disqualification that may have been imposed by a district assembly must be removed in writing by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board of the district where the disqualification was imposed before the minister is eligible for election to elder's orders. In addition, the candidate's marriage relationship must be such as not to render him or her ineligible for ordination. (35.1-5.3, 203.6, 320, 426)

E. The Recognition of Credentials

432. Ordained ministers from other denominations, desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene and presenting their ordination papers, may have their ordination recognized by the district assembly, after satisfactory examination by the District Ministerial Credentials Board as to their conduct, personal experience and doctrine, provided that: (1) they demonstrate appreciation, comprehension and application of the *Manual* and history of the Church of the Nazarene by successfully completing the related portions of a validated course of study; (2) they file with the district assembly the Ordination/Recognition Questionnaire, carefully filled in; and (3) they meet all requirements for ordination as outlined in 428-28.3 or 429-29.3; and (4) provided further that the candidate must currently be serving in a ministry assignment. (203.7, 225, 426, 429.2)

432.1. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall issue to the ordained minister so recognized a certificate of recognition, bearing the signature of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, the district superintendent, and the district secretary. (435.6)

432.2. When the credential of a minister from another church has been duly recognized, the credential issued by said church shall be returned to him or her inscribed in writing or stamped on the reverse side of the credential as follows:

Accredited by the ____________________ District Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene this _______ day of _______, _______, (year) as the basis of the new credentials.

______________________________, General Superintendent
______________________________, District Superintendent
______________________________, District Secretary

F. The Retired Minister

433. A retired minister is one who has been placed in the retired relation by the district assembly in which he or she holds ministerial membership, upon recommendation by the District Ministerial Credentials Board. Any change in status must be approved by the district assembly, upon recommendation by the District Ministerial Credentials Board. (203.27, 228.8)

433.1. Retirement shall not compel cessation from ministerial labors or in itself deprive of membership in the district assembly. A minister who was serving in an "assigned" role at the time of requesting retired relation or at the age for normal retirement may be placed in a "retired assigned" relation. However, a minister in an "unassigned" status in either of the above situations will be placed in a "retired unassigned" relation. (201, 435.9)

G. The Transfer of Ministers

434. When a member of the clergy desires to transfer to another district, transfer of ministerial membership may be issued by vote of the district assembly, or by the District Advisory Board in the interim of assemblies, in which his or her ministerial membership is held. Such transfer may be received by the District Advisory Board in the interim before the district assembly meets, granting to said minister full rights and privileges of membership on the district on which it is received, subject to final approval of the Ministerial Credentials Board and the district assembly. (203.8-3.9, 223, 228.9-28.10)

434.1. The transfer of a licensed minister shall be valid only when a detailed record of the licensee's grades in a validated course of study for licensed ministers, properly certified by the secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board of the issuing district assembly, has been sent to the secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board of the receiving dis-

trict. The secretary of the District Ministerial Studies Board of the receiving district shall notify his or her district secretary that the licensee's record of grades has been received. The minister being transferred shall actively pursue the matter of the reporting of his or her grades in a validated course of study to the receiving district. (230.1-30.2)

434.2. The district assembly receiving a transfer shall notify the district assembly issuing said transfer of the reception of the transferred person's membership. Until the transfer is received by vote of the district assembly to which addressed, the person thus transferred shall be a member of the issuing district assembly. Such transfer is valid only until the close of the next session following the date of issue of the district assembly to which addressed. (203.8, 223, 228.10)

H. General Regulations

435. The following **definitions** are of terms relating to general regulations for ministers of the Church of the Nazarene:

Clergy—elders, deacons and licensed ministers.

Laity—Members of the Church of the Nazarene who are not clergy.

Active—fulfilling an assigned role.

Assigned—The status of a member of the clergy who is active in one of the roles listed in paragraphs 404-425.

Unassigned—The status of clergy who are in good standing but not presently active in one of the roles listed in paragraphs 404-425.

Retired Assigned—The status of retired clergy who were assigned at the time retirement was requested.

Retired Unassigned—The status of retired clergy who were not assigned at the time retirement was requested.

Disciplined—The status of clergy who have been deprived of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the clergy by disciplinary action.

Filed Credential—The status of the credential of a member of the clergy in good standing who, because of inactivity in the ministry, has voluntarily temporarily given up the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member

of the clergy by filing his or her credential with the general secretary. A person who files his or her credential remains a member of the clergy and may have the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being a member of the clergy reinstated by requesting that his or her credential be returned, in accordance with 437.2. (436, 436.2, 436.8)

Surrendered Credential—The status of the credential of a member of the clergy who, because of misconduct, accusations, confessions, result of action by a board of discipline, or voluntary action for any reason other than inactivity in the ministry has been deprived of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the clergy. The person who surrenders his or her credential is still a member of the clergy, under discipline. The rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the clergy may be restored.

Resigned—The status of the credential of clergy in good standing who, for personal reasons, have decided they no longer wish to be considered as ministers, and give up the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of being members of the clergy to become laypersons on a permanent basis.

A member of the clergy who is not in good standing may also resign his or her credential according to the provisions outlined in paragraph 436.4. (436.1, 436.8)

Removed—The status of the credential of clergy whose names have been removed from the roll of ministers in accordance with the provisions of 436.3.

Return of Credential—The reinstatement to the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the clergy to one who has filed his or her credential.

Restoration of Credential—The reinstatement to the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the clergy to one whose credential is surrendered or removed.

Rehabilitation—The process of seeking to bring a minister who has been disciplined or has voluntarily surrendered the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the clergy to a place of spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health and to a place of usefulness and constructive activity. Rehabilitation does not necessarily include the restoration of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the clergy.

Accusation—A written document signed by at least two members of the Church of the Nazarene accusing a member of the Church of the Nazarene of conduct which if proven would cause the member to be subject to discipline under the terms of the *Manual*.

Knowledge—The awareness of facts learned by the exercise of one's own senses.

Information—Facts learned from others.

Belief—A conclusion reached in good faith based upon knowledge and information.

Investigating Committee—A committee appointed in accordance with the *Manual* to gather information with regard to alleged or suspected misconduct.

Charges—A written document describing specifically the conduct of a member of the Church of the Nazarene which if proven would be the basis of discipline under the terms of the *Manual*.

Suspension—A type of disciplinary action which temporarily denies a member of the clergy the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the clergy.

Good Standing—The status of clergy who have no unresolved accusations pending, are not currently under discipline, and whose credential is not surrendered or removed.

435.1. In case a member of the clergy shall, without the written approval of the District Advisory Board of the assembly district in which he or she holds ministerial membership, or the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents, regularly conduct independent church activities that are not under the direction of the Church of the Nazarene, or acts as a member of the staff of an independent church of another religious group, he or she shall be subject to discipline. (435.11, 505.1)

435.2. A member of the clergy shall always show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. (417)

435.3. Any claim to participation by a member of the clergy, and/or his or her dependents in any plan or fund that the church may have now or hereafter for the assistance or support of its disabled or aged ministers shall be based only up-

on regular, active service rendered by the minister as an assigned pastor or evangelist or other recognized role, under the sanction of the district assembly. This rule shall exclude from such participation all those in part-time and occasional service.

435.4. A licensed minister actively assigned as pastor or associate pastor of a Church of the Nazarene shall be a voting member of the district assembly. (201)

435.5. The candidate elected to the order of elder or order of deacon shall be ordained by the laying on of the hands of the general superintendent and ordained ministers with appropriate religious exercises, under the direction of the presiding general superintendent. (307.4)

435.6. The general superintendent having jurisdiction shall issue to the person so ordained a certificate of ordination, bearing the signature of the general superintendent in jurisdiction, the district superintendent, and the district secretary. (432.1)

435.7. In case the credential of an elder or deacon has been misplaced, mutilated, or destroyed, a duplicate certificate may be issued upon the recommendation of the District Advisory Board. Such recommendation shall be made directly to the general superintendent in jurisdiction, and upon the authority of that approval, the general secretary shall issue a duplicate certificate. On the back of the certificate, the original number should be identified along with the word DUPLICATE. If the general superintendent or the district secretary signing the original certificate is not available, the general superintendent having jurisdiction, the district superintendent, and the district secretary of the district requesting the duplicate certificate shall sign the certificate. On the reverse side thereof shall be the following statement inscribed in writing or printing, or both writing and printing, and signed by the general superintendent having jurisdiction, the district superintendent, and the district secretary.

This certificate is given to take the place of former certificate of ordination given to (name) , on the ________ day of (month) , A.D. (year) , by the (ordaining organization) , at which date ___he was ordained and h____ former ordi-

nation certificate signed by ________________________ and ________________________.

The former certificate was (misplaced, mutilated, destroyed).

__________________________, General Superintendent
__________________________, District Superintendent
__________________________, District Secretary

435.8. All elders and deacons shall hold church membership in some local church. If an elder or deacon does not hold membership in a local church on the district where his or her credential is held, he or she can be dropped from the roll of elders or deacons. (420)

435.9. All elders and deacons shall hold their ministerial membership in the district assembly of the district wherein their church membership is held, to which body they shall report annually. Any elder or deacon who for two consecutive years does not report to his or her district assembly either in person or by letter shall, if the district assembly so elect, cease to be a member thereof. (30, 201, 203.3, 419, 433.1)

435.10. In case an ordained minister has united with a church or denomination other than the Church of the Nazarene, or engaged in other Christian ministry without the approval of the District Advisory Board of the assembly district in which he or she holds ministerial membership, or the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents, his or her church membership and ministerial membership in the Church of the Nazarene shall, because of that fact, immediately cease. The district assembly shall cause to be entered into its minute record the following statement: "Removed from the membership and ministry of the Church of the Nazarene by uniting with another church, denomination, or ministry." (107, 112)

435.11. No ordained minister shall regularly conduct independent church activities that are not under the direction of the Church of the Nazarene, or carry on independent missions or unauthorized church activities, or be connected with the operating staff of an independent church or other religious group or denomination, without the annual written approval of the District Advisory Board or the written ap-

proval of the Board of General Superintendents. When the said activities are to be conducted on more than one district, or a district other than the district on which said minister holds ministerial membership, the written approval of the Board of General Superintendents must be obtained prior to the participation in said activities. The Board of General Superintendents shall notify the respective District Advisory Boards that a request for said approval is pending before their board.

Should an ordained minister fail to comply with these requirements, he or she may, on recommendation by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the Ministerial Credentials Board, and by action of the district assembly, be dropped from the membership of the Church of the Nazarene. The final determination as to whether any specific activity constitutes "an independent mission" or "an unauthorized church activity" shall rest with the Board of General Superintendents. (112-12.1)

435.12. An assigned minister may start a local church when authorized to do so by the district superintendent or the general superintendent having jurisdiction. Official organization reports are to be filed with the General Secretary's office by the district superintendent. (100, 208.1)

435.13. Membership in the district assembly shall be by virtue of being a pastor or other assigned minister who is actively serving and maintains employment in such ministry as his or her primary vocation in one of the assigned ministerial roles defined in paragraphs 404-425.

435.14. It shall be the duty of every minister of the Church of the Nazarene to hold in trust and confidence any communication of a confidential nature given him or her by a counselee of the congregation while he or she is acting in his or her professional character as a licensed or ordained minister of the Church of the Nazarene. The public dissemination of such communication without the express written consent of the declarant is expressly condemned. Any Nazarene minister who violates the above regulation subjects himself or herself to the disciplinary sanctions set forth in paragraphs 505-507.2 of this *Manual*.

435.15. All elders and deacons are expected to be involved in lifelong learning by completing two (2) continuing education credits or its equivalent per year to be administered by the District Ministerial Studies Board. (426.6)

I. The Resignation or Removal from the Ministry

436. The general secretary is authorized to receive and hold for safekeeping the credentials of clergy in good standing who, because of inactivity in the ministry for a period of time, wish to file them. At the time of filing the credential, the member of the clergy shall certify to the general secretary that the credential is not being filed for the purpose of avoiding discipline. The filing of the credential shall not prevent clergy from being subject to discipline as a member of the clergy. Members of the clergy who file their credentials with the general secretary may have them returned according to the provisions of 437.2.

436.1. When a member of the clergy in good standing ceases from an assigned ministry to pursue a calling or vocation other than the clergy in the Church of the Nazarene, he or she may resign the rights, privileges and responsibilities of the clergy and return the credential to the district assembly in which he or she holds standing, to be placed in the care of the general secretary. The record in the district minutes will show that he or she was "removed from the Roll of Ministers, having resigned his or her order." Clergy who thus resign may have their credential returned according to the provisions of 437.3.

436.2. A member of the clergy who fails to fulfill the responsibilities of the clergy by remaining unassigned for four or more years will be considered to be no longer participating as clergy. In such instances, the person will be required to file his or her credential. The District Ministerial Credentials Board shall report to the district assembly "the credential of (the elder or deacon in question) has been filed by the District Ministerial Credentials Board." This action should be considered nonprejudicial to character. The individual who files may have his or her credential reinstated according to the provisions of 437.2.

436.3. A member of the clergy may be removed from the Roll of Ministers if he or she receives a Letter of Commendation from his or her local church and does not use it in joining another Church of the Nazarene by the time of the next district assembly, or if he or she declares in writing that he or she has withdrawn from the Church of the Nazarene, or if he or she changes his or her residence from the address of record without providing the District Ministerial Credentials Board within one year with a new address of record, or if he or she joins another denomination either as a member or a minister, or if he or she fails to submit an annual report as required in 429.8 and 435.9; the District Ministerial Credentials Board may recommend and the district assembly may order that his or her name be removed from the membership roll of the local church and the Roll of Ministers of the Church of the Nazarene.

436.4. A member of the clergy not in good standing may resign his or her credential, upon recommendation of the District Advisory Board. (437)

436.5. A member of the clergy may be expelled from the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene either through surrender of his or her credential or through disciplinary action according to paragraphs 505-8.

436.6. When an elder or deacon has been expelled, the credential of the member of the clergy shall be sent to the general secretary to be catalogued and preserved subject to the order of the district assembly of the district where the elder or deacon held membership at the time he or she was expelled. (326.5)

436.7. Pastors, local church boards, and others who determine assignments within the church shall not engage clergy who are not in good standing in any position of trust or authority such as supply minister, song director, Sunday School/Bible study/small group teacher, or other until the credential is restored. Exceptions to this prohibition require the written approval of both the district superintendent where such credential was lost and the general superintendent in jurisdiction of that district. (437.5-37.6)

436.8. When an unretired elder or deacon ceases from ac-

tive service as a member of the clergy and takes full-time secular employment, after a period of two years he or she may be required by the District Ministerial Credentials Board to resign from the clergy order or file his or her credential and to return his or her credential to the general secretary. This two-year period shall begin at the district assembly immediately following the cessation of activity as a member of the clergy. The District Ministerial Credentials Board shall report its action to the district assembly. This action should be considered nonprejudicial to character.

436.9. Separation/Divorce. Within 48 hours of the filing of a request for divorce or legal termination/separation of a marriage of a minister or within 48 hours of the physical separation of the minister and his or her spouse for the purpose of discontinuing the physical cohabitation, the minister shall *(a)* contact the district superintendent, notifying the superintendent of the action taken; *(b)* agree to meet with the district superintendent and a member of the District Advisory Board at a mutually agreeable time and place, or if no mutually agreeable time and place can be arranged, at a time and place designated by the district superintendent; and, *(c)* explain (at the meeting designated in item "b") the circumstances of the action taken, explain the marital conflict, and explain the biblical basis for justification as to why the member of the clergy should be permitted to continue to serve as a member of the clergy in good standing. If a member of the clergy fails to comply with the subsections above, such noncompliance shall be cause for discipline. All ministers whether active, inactive, or retired, assigned or unassigned, are subject to these provisions, and must show due regard for the united advice of the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board. No active or assigned minister may continue in any clergy role without the affirmative vote of the District Advisory Board.

J. The Restoration of Members of the Clergy to Church Membership and Good Standing

437. Any member of the clergy who is expelled or withdraws from local church membership when he or she is not

in good standing may reunite with the Church of the Nazarene only with the consent of the district assembly of the assembly district from which he or she withdrew or was expelled. Should two appeals for restoration to either church membership or ministerial standing be denied, a request may be granted by the Board of General Superintendents to transfer responsibility for restoration to another district where placement may be considered. If all appeals for credential restoration are denied, an ordained minister may become a layperson, upon approval of the District Advisory Board. (436.4)

437.1. If for any reason the name of an elder or deacon shall be removed from a district assembly roll, that elder or deacon shall not be recognized in any other district without having secured the written consent of the district assembly from whose roll his or her name was removed, except as provided for in paragraph 437. (The District Advisory Board may act on a request of transfer of jurisdiction between assemblies.)

437.2. When an elder or deacon in good standing has filed his or her credential, such credential may, at any subsequent time when the elder or deacon is in good standing, be returned to the elder or deacon upon order of the district assembly where it was filed, provided that the return of his or her credential shall have been recommended by the district superintendent and the District Advisory Board.

437.3. When an elder or deacon in good standing has resigned his or her order of ministry according to 436.1 and 436.8, he or she may be restored to said order by the district assembly, upon filling out the Ordination/Recognition Questionnaire, reaffirming the vows of ministry, and after examination by and the favorable recommendation of the District Ministerial Credentials Board and upon approval by the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

437.4. When an ordained minister is deceased whose credential was filed and who was in good standing at the time of death, the minister's family may, upon written request to the general secretary, and approval by the district superintendent of the district where such filing is recorded, receive said minister's certificate of ordination.

437.5. Any time a member of the clergy ceases to be entitled to exercise the rights and privileges of the clergy, the Ministerial Credentials Board will prepare a written report concerning the facts and circumstances of the change in status. The report shall include the recommendations of the Ministerial Credentials Board concerning whether or not a plan of rehabilitation is appropriate. Each district is encouraged to have a written plan in harmony with the *Manual* directives, to aid in the process of response, rehabilitation, reconciliation and possible restoration to ministry, of clergy involved in conduct unbecoming a minister. If a plan for rehabilitation is appropriate, the Ministerial Credentials Board shall, to the extent practical, work with the individual to apply the district plan for rehabilitation. The objective of the plan should be to return the individual to a place of spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical health. Primary responsibility for accomplishing the plan shall rest on the person being rehabilitated, but the facilitator(s) shall represent the church in providing support and assistance. The facilitator(s) or their designee shall report to the Ministerial Credentials Board once each quarter concerning the progress toward rehabilitation. The report shall be in the form established by the Ministerial Credentials Board. The Ministerial Credentials Board may revise the plan of rehabilitation from time to time as the circumstances warrant.

437.6. A member of the clergy who is not in good standing shall not preach, teach a Sunday School/Bible study/small group class, or hold any other position of trust or authority in the church or worship services, and shall not be given any ministerial role unless the District Advisory Board, the Ministerial Credentials Board, the district superintendent, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction determine that the individual has made sufficient progress toward rehabilitation to warrant once again allowing the individual to be of service in a position of trust or authority. Those considering approval shall carefully consider whether or not the individual who has lost good standing has appropriately repented of his or her misconduct. True repentance involves a deep sense of personal guilt coupled with a change of conduct

which continues for a length of time sufficient to be evidence that the change is likely to be permanent. Approval to serve in a position of trust or authority may be granted with or without restrictions. (505.1-5.2, 505.5, 505.11-5.12)

437.7. A member of the clergy who has lost good standing may be restored to good standing and have his or her credential restored only by the following process: (1) approval of the district superintendent; (2) approval of the District Ministerial Credentials Board; (3) a two-thirds approval of the District Advisory Board; (4) approval of the Board of General Superintendents; and (5) final approval of the district assembly where good standing was lost.

In considering whether or not to recommend that a credential be restored, progress on the plan of rehabilitation shall be the primary issue but passage of time shall be an additional consideration.

However, in the event the member of the clergy has committed sexual misconduct, the member of the clergy shall not be eligible to apply for restoration until four years have passed. A member of the clergy who has lost good standing as a result of sexual misconduct, must satisfactorily progress on a prescribed plan for rehabilitation for a minimum of four years, before good standing may be restored. (505.1-5.2, 505.5, 505.11-5.12)

437.8. Because some types of misconduct, such as sexual misconduct involving children or of a homosexual nature, or repeated marital infidelity, are rarely the result of a one-time moral lapse, individuals who are guilty of sexual misconduct that involves a high probability of repeated misconduct should not be restored to good standing. These individuals also should not be permitted to serve in any position of leadership, trust, or ministry in the local church. (505.1-5.2, 505.5, 505.11-5.12)

PART VI

Judicial Administration

INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE WRONGFUL CONDUCT AND CHURCH DISCIPLINE

RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE MISCONDUCT

RESPONSE TO MISCONDUCT BY A PERSON IN A POSITION OF TRUST OR AUTHORITY

CONTESTED DISCIPLINE OF A LAYPERSON

CONTESTED DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY

RULES OF PROCEDURE

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

GENERAL COURT OF APPEALS

REGIONAL COURT OF APPEALS

GUARANTY OF RIGHTS

I. INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE WRONGFUL CONDUCT AND CHURCH DISCIPLINE

500. The objectives of church discipline are to sustain the integrity of the church, to protect the innocent from harm, to protect the effectiveness of the witness of the church, to warn and correct the careless, to bring the guilty to salvation, to rehabilitate the guilty, to restore to effective service those who are rehabilitated, and to protect the reputation and resources of the church. Members of the church who do violence to the Covenant of Christian Character or the Covenant of Christian Conduct, or who willfully and continuously violate their membership vows, should be dealt with kindly yet faithfully, according to the grievousness of their offenses. Holiness of heart and life being the New Testament standard, the Church of the Nazarene insists upon a clean ministry and requires that those who bear its credentials as clergy be orthodox in doctrine and holy in life. Thus the purpose of the discipline is not punitive or retributive but is to accomplish these objectives. Determination of standing and continued relationship to the church is also a function of the disciplinary process.

II. RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE MISCONDUCT

501. A response is appropriate any time a person with authority to respond becomes aware of information that a prudent person would believe to be credible and which would cause a prudent person to believe that harm is likely to come to the church, to potential victims of misconduct, or to any other person as a result of misconduct by a person in a position of trust or authority within the Church.

501.1. When a person who does not have authority to respond for the church becomes aware of information which a prudent person would consider to be credible and which would cause a prudent person to believe that wrongful conduct by a person in a position of trust or authority may be

occurring within the church, the person with the information shall make the representative of the church who has the authority to respond aware of the information.

501.2. The person who has authority to respond is determined by the position within the church of the individual or individuals who may be involved in misconduct as follows:

Person Implicated	*Person with Authority to Respond*
Nonmember	Pastor of local church where the conduct in question takes place.
Layperson	Pastor of church where layperson is a member.
Member of the clergy	District superintendent where the person implicated is a member or the pastor of the local church where the person is on staff.
District superintendent	General superintendent in jurisdiction
Not otherwise defined	General secretary

The person with authority to respond may enlist the help of others in any fact-finding or response.

501.3. If no accusation has been made, the purpose of an investigation shall be to determine whether or not action is needed to prevent harm or to reduce the impact of harm that has previously been done. In circumstances in which a prudent person would believe that no further action was needed to prevent harm or to reduce the impact of harm, no investigation will continue unless an accusation has been filed. Facts learned during an investigation may become the basis of an accusation.

III. RESPONSE TO MISCONDUCT BY A PERSON IN A POSITION OF TRUST OR AUTHORITY

502. Whenever a person authorized to respond learns facts which indicate that innocent parties have been harmed by the misconduct of a person in a position of trust or authority, action shall be taken to cause the church to respond appropriately. An appropriate response will seek to prevent any additional harm to victims of the misconduct, seek to re-

spond to the needs of the victims, the accused, and others who suffer as a result of the misconduct. Particular concern should be shown for the needs of the spouse and family of the accused. The response will also seek to address the needs of the local church, the district and the general church concerning public relations, protection from liability and protection of the integrity of the church.

Those who respond for the church must understand that what they say and do may have consequences under civil law. The duty of the church to respond is based on Christian concern. No one has the authority to accept financial responsibility for a local church without action by the church board, or for a district without action by the District Advisory Board. One who is uncertain about what action is appropriate should consider seeking counsel from an appropriate professional.

502.1. In each local church, it is appropriate for the church board to fashion a response to any crisis which may arise; however, it may be necessary to respond before a board meeting can take place. It is wise for each local church to have an emergency response plan.

502.2. On each district the primary responsibility for responding to a crisis rests with the District Advisory Board; however, it may be necessary to respond before a meeting of the board can take place. It is wise for a district to adopt an emergency response plan. The plan may include the appointment by the District Advisory Board of a response team composed of people with special qualifications such as counselors, social workers, those trained in communications and those familiar with the applicable law.

503. Resolution of Disciplinary Matters by Agreement. The disciplinary process described in this *Manual* is intended to provide an appropriate process for resolving allegations of misconduct when the allegations are contested by the accused. In many situations, it is appropriate to resolve disciplinary matters by agreement. Efforts to resolve disciplinary matters by agreement are encouraged and should be pursued whenever practical.

503.1. Any matter which is within the jurisdiction of a Lo-

cal Board of Discipline may be resolved by a written agreement between the person accused and the pastor if approved by the church board and the district superintendent. The terms of such an agreement shall have the same effect as an action by a Local Board of Discipline.

503.2. Any matter which is within the jurisdiction of a District Board of Discipline may be resolved by a written agreement between the person accused and the district superintendent if the agreement is approved by the District Advisory Board and the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The terms of such an agreement shall have the same effect as an action by a District Board of Discipline.

IV. CONTESTED DISCIPLINE OF A LAYPERSON

504. If a lay member is accused of unchristian conduct, such charges shall be placed in writing and signed by at least two members who have been in faithful attendance for at least six months. The pastor shall appoint an investigating committee of three members of the local church, subject to the approval of the district superintendent. The committee shall make a written report of its investigation. This report must be signed by a majority and filed with the church board.

After the investigation and pursuant thereto, any two members in good standing in the local church may sign charges against the accused and file same with the church board. Thereupon the church board shall appoint, subject to the approval of the district superintendent, a Local Board of Discipline of five members, who are unprejudiced and able to hear and dispose of the case in a fair and impartial manner. If in the opinion of the district superintendent, it is impractical to select five members from the local church due to the size of the church, the nature of the allegations, or the position of influence of the accused, the district superintendent shall after consulting the pastor, appoint five laypersons from other churches on the same district to be the Board of Discipline. This board shall conduct a hearing as soon as practicable and determine the issues involved. After

hearing the testimony of witnesses and considering the evidence, the Board of Discipline shall either absolve the accused or administer discipline as the facts shall establish to be proper. The decision must be unanimous. Discipline may take the form of reprimand, suspension, or expulsion from membership in the local church. (414.8)

504.1. An appeal from the decision of a Local Board of Discipline may be taken to the District Court of Appeals within 30 days by either the accused or the church board.

504.2. When a layperson has been expelled from membership in the local church by a Local Board of Discipline, he or she may reunite with the Church of the Nazarene on the same district only with the approval of the District Advisory Board. If such consent is granted, he or she shall be received into the membership of that local church using the approved form for the reception of church members. (27, 33-39, 112.1-12.4, 801)

V. CONTESTED DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY

505. The perpetuity and effectiveness of the Church of the Nazarene depend largely upon the spiritual qualifications, the character, and the manner of life of its clergy. Members of the clergy aspire to a high calling and function as anointed individuals in whom is placed the church's trust. They accept their calling knowing that they will be held to high personal standards by those to whom they minister. Because of the high expectations placed upon them, the clergy and their ministry are peculiarly vulnerable to any accusation of misconduct. It is therefore incumbent upon members to use the following procedures with the biblical wisdom and maturity that befits the people of God.

505.1. If a member of the clergy is accused of misconduct, conduct unbecoming a minister, or of teaching doctrines out of harmony with the doctrinal statement of the Church of the Nazarene, or of serious laxity in the enforcement of the Covenant of Christian Character or the Covenant of Christian Conduct of the church, such accusations shall be placed in writing and shall be signed by at least two members of

the Church of the Nazarene who are at the time in good standing. Accusations of sexual misconduct cannot be signed by any person who consented to participate in the alleged misconduct. The written accusation must be filed with the District Advisory Board of the district where the accused has ministerial membership. This accusation shall become part of the record in the case.

The District Advisory Board shall give written notice to the accused that accusations have been filed, as soon as practical by any method which gives actual notice. When actual notice is not practical, notice may be provided in the manner which is customary for serving legal notices in that locality. The accused and his or her counsel shall have the right to examine the accusations and to receive a written copy of the same immediately upon request. (437.6-37.8)

505.2. A person's signature on an accusation against a member of the clergy constitutes certification by the signer that, to the best of the signer's knowledge, information and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the accusation is well grounded in fact. (437.6-37.8)

505.3. When a written accusation is filed, the District Advisory Board shall appoint a committee of three or more assigned ordained ministers and not less than two (2) laypersons as the Advisory Board deems to be appropriate to investigate the facts and circumstances involved and report their finding in writing and signed by a majority of the committee. If after considering the committee's report, it shall appear that there are probable grounds for charges, such charges shall be drawn up and signed by any two ordained ministers. The District Advisory Board shall give the accused notice thereof, as soon as practical, by any method which gives actual notice. When actual notice is not practical, notice may be provided in the manner which is customary for serving legal notices in that locality. The accused and his or her counsel shall have the right to examine the charges and specifications and to receive a copy thereof immediately upon request. No accused shall be required to answer charges of which he or she has not been informed as specified herein. (222.3)

505.4. If, after investigation it appears that an accusation against a member of the clergy is without factual basis and has been filed in bad faith, the filing of the accusation may be grounds for disciplinary action against those who signed the accusation.

505.5. In case charges are filed, the District Advisory Board shall appoint five assigned ordained ministers and not less than two (2) laypersons as it deems advisable of the district to hear the case and determine the issues; these persons so named shall constitute a District Board of Discipline to conduct the hearing and dispose of the case according to the laws of the church. No district superintendent shall serve as prosecutor or as assistant to the prosecutor in the trial of an ordained minister or licensed minister. This Board of Discipline shall have power to vindicate and absolve the accused in connection with said charges or to administer discipline commensurate with the offense. Such discipline may provide for discipline intended to lead to the salvation and rehabilitation of the guilty party. The discipline may include repentance, confession, restitution, suspension, recommendation for removal of credential, expulsion from the ministry or membership of the church, or both, public or private reprimand, or any such other discipline that may be appropriate including suspension or deferment of discipline during a period of probation. (222.4, 437.6-37.8, 505.11-5.12)

505.6. If either the accused or the District Advisory Board shall so request, the Board of Discipline shall be a Regional Board of Discipline. The regional board for each case shall be appointed by the general superintendent in jurisdiction of the district where the accused minister holds his or her membership.

505.7. It is provided that in no case shall disciplinary action be taken against a missionary by a Phase 1 district as such.

505.8. The decision of a Board of Discipline shall be unanimous, written and signed by all members, and shall include a finding of "guilty" or "not guilty" as to each charge and specification.

505.9. Any hearing by a Board of Discipline herein provided for shall always be conducted within the bounds of the district where the charges were filed at a place designated by the board that is to hear the charges.

505.10. The procedure at any hearing shall be according to Rules of Procedure hereinafter provided. (222.3-22.4, 429.9, 435.11, 508)

505.11. When a minister is charged with conduct unbecoming a minister and shall admit to guilt, or shall confess to guilt without being charged, the District Advisory Board may assess any of the disciplines provided for in 505.5. (437.6-37.8)

505.12. When a minister is accused of conduct unbecoming a minister, and shall admit to guilt, or shall confess to guilt prior to being brought before a Board of Discipline, the District Advisory Board may assess any of the disciplines provided for in 505.5. (437.6-37.8)

506. Following a decision by a Board of Discipline, the accused, the District Advisory Board, or those who sign the charges shall be entitled to appeal the decision to the General Court of Appeals for those in the United States and Canada, or to the Regional Court of Appeals in other global regions. The appeal shall be begun within 30 days after such decision, and the court shall review the entire record of the case and all steps that have been taken therein. If the court discovers any substantial error prejudicial to the right of any person, it shall correct such error by ordering a new hearing to be conducted in a manner capable of giving relief to that person affected adversely by previous proceedings or decision.

507. When the decision of a Board of Discipline is adverse to the accused minister and the decision provides for suspension from the ministry or cancellation of credential, the minister shall thereupon immediately suspend all ministerial activity; and refusal to do so will result in the forfeiture of the right to appeal.

507.1. When the decision of a Board of Discipline provides for suspension or cancellation of credential and the accused minister desires to appeal, he or she shall file with the secretary of the court to which the appeal is made, at the time

the notice of appeal is filed, his or her written credential as a minister, and his or her right of appeal shall be conditioned upon compliance with this provision. When such credential is so filed, it shall be safely kept by the said secretary until the conclusion of the case, and thereupon the same shall either be forwarded to the general secretary or returned to the minister as the court may direct.

507.2. Appeals to the General Court of Appeals may be made by the accused or the Board of Discipline from decisions of a Regional Court of Appeals. Such appeals shall be by the same rules and procedures as other appeals to the General Court of Appeals.

VI. RULES OF PROCEDURE

508. The General Court of Appeals shall adopt uniform Rules of Procedure governing all proceedings before boards of discipline and courts of appeal. After such rules are adopted and published, they shall be the final authority in all judicial proceedings. Printed Rules of Procedure shall be supplied by the general secretary. Changes or amendments to such rules may be adopted by the General Court of Appeals at any time, and when these are adopted and published, they shall be effective and authoritative in all cases. Any steps that are thereafter taken in any proceeding shall be in accordance with such change or amendment. (505.1)

VII. DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

509. Each organized district shall have a District Court of Appeals composed of two laypersons and three assigned ordained ministers, including the district superintendent, elected by the district assembly according to 203.22. This court shall hear appeals of church members concerning any action of local boards of discipline. Notice of appeal must be given in writing within 30 days after such action or after appellant has knowledge thereof. Such notice shall be delivered to the District Court of Appeals or a member thereof, and a copy of such notice shall be delivered to the pastor of the local church and to the secretary of the church board concerned. (203.22)

509.1. The District Court of Appeals shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide all appeals of laypersons or churches from the action of a Board of Discipline appointed to discipline a layperson.

VIII. GENERAL COURT OF APPEALS

510. The General Assembly shall elect five assigned ordained ministers to serve as members of the General Court of Appeals during each ensuing quadrennium, or until their successors are elected and qualified. This court shall have jurisdiction as follows:

510.1. To hear and determine all appeals from the action or decision of any District Board of Discipline or Regional Court of Appeals. When such appeals are so determined by said court, such determination shall be authoritative and final. (305.7)

511. Vacancies that may exist in the General Court of Appeals during the interim between sessions of the General Assembly shall be filled by appointment of the Board of General Superintendents. (317.6)

512. Per diem and expense allowances for members of the General Court of Appeals shall be the same as that of members of the General Board of the church, when the members of the court are engaged in official business of the court, and payment therefor shall be made by the general treasurer.

513. The general secretary shall be custodian of all permanent records and decisions of the General Court of Appeals. (325.4)

IX. REGIONAL COURT OF APPEALS

514. There shall be a Regional Court of Appeals for each region other than the United States and Canada. Each Regional Court of Appeals shall consist of five assigned ordained ministers elected by the Board of General Superintendents following each General Assembly. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of General Superintendents. The Rules of Procedure shall be the same for the Regional Courts of Appeals as for the General Court of Appeals, in both the church *Manual* and the *Judicial Manual*.

X. GUARANTY OF RIGHTS

515. The right to a fair and impartial hearing of charges pending against an accused minister or layperson shall not be denied or unduly postponed. Written charges shall be given an early hearing in order that the innocent may be absolved and the guilty brought to discipline. Every accused is entitled to the presumption of innocence until proven guilty. As to each charge and specification, the prosecution shall have the burden of proving guilt to a moral certainty and beyond a reasonable doubt.

515.1. The cost of preparing the record of a case, including a verbatim transcript of all testimony given at the trial, for the purpose of an appeal to the General Court of Appeals, shall be borne by the district where the hearing was held and disciplinary action taken. Every minister who appeals shall have the right to present oral as well as written argument upon his or her appeal, but this right may be waived in writing by the accused.

515.2. A minister or layperson who is accused of misconduct or any violation of the church *Manual* and against whom charges are pending shall have the right to meet his or her accusers face-to-face and to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution.

515.3. The testimony of any witness before a Board of Discipline shall not be received or considered in evidence unless such testimony be given under oath or solemn affirmation.

515.4. A minister or layperson who is brought before a Board of Discipline to answer charges shall always have the right to be represented by counsel of his or her own choosing, provided such counsel be a member in good standing in the Church of the Nazarene. Any full member of a regularly organized church against whom no written charges are pending will be considered in good standing.

515.5. A minister or layperson shall not be required to answer charges for any act that occurred more than five years before the filing of such charges, and no evidence will be considered at any hearing for any matter that occurred more than five years before the charges were filed. Provided, however, that if the person aggrieved by any such act was

under the age of 18 or found to be mentally incompetent of making an accusation or filing a charge, such five-year limitation periods would not begin to run until the aggrieved person reached age 18 or became mentally competent. In the case of the sexual abuse of a child, no time limit shall apply.

If a minister is convicted of a felony by a court of competent jurisdiction, he or she shall surrender his or her credential to the district superintendent. At the request of such minister, and if the Board of Discipline has not previously been involved, the District Advisory Board shall investigate the circumstances of the conviction and may restore the credential if it deems appropriate.

515.6. A minister or layperson shall not be twice placed in jeopardy for the same offense. It shall not be considered, however, that such person was placed in jeopardy at any hearing or proceeding where the court of appeals discovers reversible error committed in the original proceeding before a Board of Discipline.

PART VII

Ritual

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

THE RECEPTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

MATRIMONY

THE FUNERAL SERVICE

THE ORGANIZATION OF A LOCAL CHURCH

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

CHURCH DEDICATIONS

800. THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

800.1. The Baptism of Believers

DEARLY BELOVED: Baptism is the sign and seal of the new covenant of grace, the significance of which is attested by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans as follows:

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death: in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection" (Romans 6:3-5).

The earliest and simplest statement of Christian belief, into which you now come to be baptized, is the Apostles' Creed, which reads as follows:

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

"And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

"I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Church of Jesus Christ, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

Will you be baptized into this faith? If so, answer, "I will."

Response: I will.

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you realize that He saves you now?

Response: I do.

Will you obey God's holy will and keep His commandments, walking in them all the days of your life?

Response: I will.

The minister, giving the full name of the person and using the preferred form of baptism—sprinkling, pouring, or immersion—shall say:

____________________, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

800.2. The Baptism of Infants or Young Children

When the sponsors shall have presented themselves with the child (or children) the minister shall say:

DEARLY BELOVED: The sacrament of baptism is the sign and seal of the new covenant of grace. While we do not hold that baptism imparts the regenerating grace of God, we do believe that Christian baptism signifies for this young child God's acceptance within the community of Christian faith on the basis of prevenient grace. It anticipates his (her) personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ.

In presenting this child for baptism you are hereby witnessing to your own personal Christian faith and to your purpose to guide him (her) early in life to a knowledge of Christ as Savior. To this end it is your duty to teach him (her), as soon as he (she) shall be able to learn, the nature and end of this holy sacrament; to watch over his (her) education, that he (she) may not be led astray; to direct his (her) feet to the sanctuary; to restrain him (her) from evil associates and habits; and as much as in you lies, to bring him (her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Will you endeavor to do so by the help of God? If so, answer, "I will."

The minister may then ask the parents or guardians to name the child, and shall then baptize the child, repeating his (her) full name and saying:

_______________, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Baptism also signifies the acceptance of this child into the community of Christian faith. I now ask you, the congregation; will you commit yourself as the Body of Christ to support and encourage these parents as they endeavor to fulfill their responsibilities to this child and to assist by nurturing his (her) growth toward spiritual maturity?

Response: We will.

The minister may then offer the following prayer or may use an extemporary prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that You will take this child into Your loving care. Abundantly enrich him (her) with Your heavenly grace; bring him (her) safely through the perils of childhood; deliver him (her) from the temptations of youth; lead him (her) to a personal knowledge of Christ as Savior; help him (her) to grow in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and man, and to persevere therein to the end. Uphold the parents with loving care, that with wise counsel and holy example they may faithfully discharge their responsibilities to both this child and to You. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

800.3. The Dedication of Infants or Young Children

When the parents or guardians have presented themselves with the child (or children) the minister shall say:

"Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19:13-14).

In presenting this child for dedication you signify not only your faith in the Christian religion but also your desire that he (she) may early know and follow the will of God, may live and die a Christian, and come unto everlasting blessedness.

In order to attain this holy end, it will be your duty, as parents (guardians), to teach him (her) early the fear of the Lord, to watch over his (her) education, that he (she) be not led astray; to direct his (her) youthful mind to the Holy Scriptures, and his (her) feet to the sanctuary; to restrain him (her) from evil associates and habits; and, as much as in you lies, to bring him (her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Will you endeavor to do so by the help of God? If so, answer, "I will."

Pastor: I now ask you, the congregation; will you commit yourself as the Body of Christ to sup-

port and encourage these parents as they endeavor to fulfill their responsibilities to this child and to assist _____________ by nurturing his (her) growth toward spiritual maturity?

Response: We will.

Pastor: Our loving Heavenly Father, we do here and now dedicate _____________ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the minister may offer the following prayer, or may use an extemporary prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that You will take this child into Your loving care. Abundantly enrich him (her) with Your heavenly grace; bring him (her) safely through the perils of childhood; deliver him (her) from the temptations of youth; lead him (her) to a personal knowledge of Christ as Savior; help him (her) to grow in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and man, and to persevere therein to the end. Uphold the parents with loving care, that with wise counsel and holy example they may faithfully discharge their responsibilities both to this child and to You. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

800.4. The Dedication of Infants or Young Children

(Ritual for Single Parent or Guardian)

When the parent or guardian has presented himself (herself) with the child (or children) the minister shall say:

"Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19:13-14).

In presenting this child for dedication you signify not only your faith in the Christian religion but also your desire that he (she) may early know and follow the will of God, may live and die a Christian, and come unto everlasting blessedness.

In order to attain this holy end, it will be your duty, as a parent (guardian), to teach him (her) early the fear of the Lord, to watch over his (her) education, that he (she) be not led astray; to direct his (her) youthful mind to the Holy Scriptures, and his (her) feet to the sanctuary; to restrain him (her) from evil associates and habits; and, as much as in you lies, to bring him (her) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Will you endeavor to do so by the help of God? If so, answer, "I will."

Pastor: I now ask you, the congregation; will you commit yourself as the Body of Christ to support and encourage this parent as he (she) endeavors to fulfill his (her) responsibilities to this child and to assist ______________________________ by nurturing his (her) growth toward spiritual maturity?

Response: We will.

Pastor: Our loving Heavenly Father, we do here and now dedicate ________________________ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the minister may offer the following prayer, or may use an extemporary prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that You will take this child into Your loving care. Abundantly enrich him (her) with Your heavenly grace; bring him (her) safely through the perils of childhood; deliver him (her) from the temptations of youth; lead him (her) to a personal knowledge of Christ as Savior; help him (her) to grow in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and man, and to persevere therein to the end. Uphold the parent with loving care, that with wise counsel and holy example he (she) may faithfully discharge his (her) responsibilities both to this child and to You. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

801. THE RECEPTION OF CHURCH MEMBERS

The prospective members having come forward to stand before the altar of the church, the pastor shall address them as follows:

DEARLY BELOVED: The privileges and blessings that we have in association together in the Church of Jesus Christ are very sacred and precious. There is in it such hallowed fellowship as cannot otherwise be known.

There is such helpfulness with brotherly watch care and counsel as can be found only in the Church.

There is the godly care of pastors, with the teachings of the Word; and the helpful inspiration of social worship. And there is cooperation in service, accomplishing that which cannot otherwise be done. The doctrines upon which the church rests as essential to Christian experience are brief.

NOTE: The minister may choose one of the following creedal options.

OPTION 1:

We believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We especially emphasize the deity of Jesus Christ and the personality of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that human beings are born in sin; that they need the work of forgiveness through Christ and the new birth by the Holy Spirit; that subsequent to this there is the deeper work of

heart cleansing or entire sanctification through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and that to each of these works of grace the Holy Spirit gives witness.

We believe that our Lord will return, the dead shall be raised, and that all shall come to final judgment with its rewards and punishments.

Do you heartily believe these truths? If so, answer, "I do."

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you realize that He saves you now?

Response: I do.

Desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, do you covenant to give yourself to the fellowship and work of God in connection with it, as set forth in the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct of the Church of the Nazarene? Will you endeavor in every way to glorify God, by a humble walk, godly conversation, and holy service; by devotedly giving of your means; by faithful attendance upon the means of grace; and, abstaining from all evil, will you seek earnestly to perfect holiness of heart and life in the fear of the Lord?

Response: I will.

The minister shall then say to the person or persons:

I welcome you into this church, to its sacred fellowship, responsibilities, and privileges. May

the great Head of the Church bless and keep you, and enable you to be faithful in all good works, that your life and witness may be effective in leading others to Christ.

The minister shall then take each one by the hand, and with appropriate words of personal greeting welcome each into the church.

(Alternate form for members joining by letter of transfer:)

_______________________________, formerly a member (members) of the Church of the Nazarene at ____________________________________, comes (come) to join the fellowship of this local congregation.

Taking each by the hand, or speaking to the group, the minister shall say:

It gives me pleasure on behalf of this church to welcome you into our membership. We trust that we will be a source of encouragement and strength to you and that you, in turn, will be a source of blessing and help to us. May the Lord richly bless you in the salvation of souls and in the advancement of His kingdom.

OPTION 2:

We believe:

In one God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

That the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.

That man is born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually.

That the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

That the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.

That believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

That the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.

That our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place. (paragraphs 26.1-26.8)

Do you heartily believe these truths? If so, answer, "I do."

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you realize that He saves you now?

Response: I do.

Desiring to unite with the Church of the Nazarene, do you covenant to give yourself to the fellowship and work of God in connection with it, as set forth in the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct of the Church of the Nazarene? Will you endeavor in

every way to glorify God, by a humble walk, godly conversation, and holy service; by devotedly giving of your means; by faithful attendance upon the means of grace; and, abstaining from all evil, will you seek earnestly to perfect holiness of heart and life in the fear of the Lord?

Response: I will.

The minister shall then say to the person or persons:

I welcome you into this church, to its sacred fellowship, responsibilities, and privileges. May the great Head of the Church bless and keep you, and enable you to be faithful in all good works, that your life and witness may be effective in leading others to Christ.

The minister shall then take each one by the hand, and with appropriate words of personal greeting welcome each into the church.

(Alternate form for members joining by letter of transfer:)

________________________________, formerly a member (members) of the Church of the Nazarene at ____________________________________, comes (come) to join the fellowship of this local congregation.

Taking each by the hand, or speaking to the group, the minister shall say:

It gives me pleasure on behalf of this church to welcome you into our membership. We trust that

we will be a source of encouragement and strength to you and that you, in turn, will be a source of blessing and help to us. May the Lord richly bless you in the salvation of souls and in the advancement of His kingdom.

802. THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The administration of the Lord's Supper may be introduced by an appropriate sermon and the reading of 1 Corinthians 11:23-29; Luke 22:14-20, or some other suitable passage. Let the minister then give the following invitation:

The Lord himself ordained this holy sacrament. He commanded His disciples to partake of the bread and wine, emblems of His broken body and shed blood. This is His table. The feast is for His disciples. Let all those who have with true repentance forsaken their sins, and have believed in Christ unto salvation, draw near and take these emblems, and, by faith, partake of the life of Jesus Christ, to your soul's comfort and joy. Let us remember that it is the memorial of the death and passion of our Lord; also a token of His coming again. Let us not forget that we are one, at one table with the Lord.

The minister may offer a prayer of confession and supplication, concluding with the following prayer of consecration:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who out of Your tender mercy gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption: hear us, we most humbly beseech You. Grant that, as we receive these Your creatures of bread and wine according to the holy institution of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, in remem-

brance of His passion and death, we may be made partakers of the benefits of His atoning sacrifice.

We are reminded that in the same night that our Lord was betrayed, He took bread and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” Likewise, after supper, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

May we come before You in true humility and faith as we partake of this holy sacrament. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then may the minister, partaking first, with the assistance of any other ministers present, and when necessary, of the stewards, administer the Communion to the people.

While the bread is being distributed, let the minister say:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was broken for you, preserve you blameless, unto everlasting life. Take and eat this, in remembrance that Christ died for you.

As the cup is being passed, let the minister say:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was

shed for you, preserve you blameless unto everlasting life. Drink this, in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

After all have partaken, the minister may then offer a concluding prayer of thanksgiving and commitment. (34.5, 413.4, 413.11, 427.7, 428.2, 429.1)

NOTE: Only unfermented wine should be used in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

803. MATRIMONY

At the day and time appointed for the solemnization of matrimony, the persons to be married—having been qualified according to law and by careful counsel and guidance by the minister—standing together, facing the minister, the man to the minister's left and the woman to the right, the minister shall address the congregation as follows:

DEARLY BELOVED: We are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony, which is an honorable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that exists between Christ and His Church. This holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with His presence and first miracle that He wrought, in Cana of Galilee, and St. Paul commended as being honorable among all men. It is, therefore, not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.

Into this holy estate these persons present now come to be joined.

Addressing the couple to be married, the minister shall say:

________________ and ________________, I require and charge you both as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that the commitment to marriage is a commitment to permanence. It is

the intent of God that your marriage will be for life, and that only death will separate you.

If the vows you exchange today be kept without violation, and if you seek always to know and do the will of God, your lives will be blessed with His presence, and your home will abide in peace.

Following the charge the minister shall say unto the man:

________________, will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto her, so long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

Then shall the minister say unto the woman:

________________, will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love, honor, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep yourself only unto him, so long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

Then the minister shall ask:

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

Response (by the father, or whoever gives the bride in marriage): I do.

Facing each other and joining right hands, the couple shall then exchange the following vows:

The man shall repeat after the minister:

I, ____________, take you, ____________, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better–for worse, for richer–for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

The woman shall repeat after the minister:

I, ____________, take you, ____________, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better–for worse, for richer–for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

If desired, a ring ceremony may be inserted at this point. The minister receives the ring from the groomsman and, in turn, passes it to the groom. As he then places it upon the bride's finger, he shall repeat, after the minister:

This ring I give you as a token of my love and as a pledge of my constant fidelity.

Repeat for double ring ceremony.

The couple then shall kneel as the minister offers the following, or an extemporaneous prayer:

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life, send Your blessing upon these Your servants, this man and this woman, whom we now bless in Your name; that as Isaac and Rebekah lived faithfully together, so these persons may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant made between them this hour and may ever remain in love and peace together, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister say:

Forasmuch as this man and woman have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have declared the same by joining of hands, I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let not man put asunder. Amen.

The minister shall then add this blessing:

God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with His favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace. May you so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting.

The minister may then conclude with an extemporaneous prayer and/or benediction. (429.7)

804. THE FUNERAL SERVICE

DEARLY BELOVED: We are gathered today to pay our final tribute of respect to that which was mortal of our deceased loved one and friend. To you members of the family who mourn your loss, we especially offer our deep and sincere sympathy. May we share with you the comfort afforded by God's Word for such a time as this:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:1-3).

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26).

INVOCATION (in the minister's own words or the following):

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we come into this sanctuary of sorrow, realizing our utter dependence upon You. We know You do love us and can turn even the shadow of death into the light of morning. Help us now to wait before You with reverent and submissive hearts.

You are our Refuge and Strength, O God—a very present Help in time of trouble. Grant unto us Your abundant mercy. May those who mourn

today find comfort and healing balm in Your sustaining grace. We humbly bring these petitions in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A HYMN OR SPECIAL SONG

SELECTIONS OF SCRIPTURE:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:3-9).

(Other passages that might be used are: Matthew 5:3-4, 6, 8; Psalms 27:3-5, 11, 13-14; 46:1-6, 10-11.)

MESSAGE

A HYMN OR SPECIAL SONG

Closing Prayer

* * *

At the Graveside

When the people have assembled, the minister may read any or all of the following scriptures:

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another" (Job 19:25-27).

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. . . . Then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15: 51-52, 54-58).

"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from

their labor; for their deeds will follow them'" (Revelation 14:13).

The minister shall then read one of the following committal statements:

For a Believer:

Forasmuch as the spirit of our departed loved one has returned to God, who gave it, we therefore tenderly commit his (her) body to the grave in sure trust and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall give to us new bodies like unto His glorious body. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

For a Nonbeliever:

We have come now to commit the body of our departed friend to its kindred dust. The spirit we leave with God, for we know the merciful Judge of all the earth will do right. Let us who remain dedicate ourselves anew to live in the fear and love of God, so that we may obtain an abundant entrance into the heavenly Kingdom.

For a Child:

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commit the body of this child to the grave. And as Jesus, during His earthly life, took the children into His arms and blessed them, may He receive this dear one unto himself, for, as He said, "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

PRAYER:

Our Heavenly Father, God of all mercy, we look to You in this moment of sorrow and bereavement. Comfort these dear ones whose hearts are heavy and sad. Will You be with them, sustain and guide them in the days to come. Grant, O Lord, that they may love and serve You and obtain the fullness of Your promises in the world to come.

"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21).

805. THE ORGANIZATION OF A LOCAL CHURCH

District Superintendent: Loved ones in Christ, we are gathered on this Lord's Day for the special purpose of officially organizing the (name) Church of the Nazarene. Indeed you are already a church but today the life of this congregation moves to a new level as you embrace the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a fully organized congregation in accordance with the Constitution and polity of the Church of the Nazarene.

On behalf of the global family of Nazarenes, I commend you for your vision, your faith, and your diligent labor as you have worked together hand in hand and heart to heart to be a community of faith that lives as an authentic expression of the kingdom of God in the world. By this act of organization, you declare your intention to share with the global family of Nazarenes in fulfilling our common mission: "To make Christlike disciples in the nations."

Three core values guide us in this mission:

We are a Christian people. We stand with Christians everywhere in affirming the historic Trinitarian creeds, and we deeply value our particular heritage in the Wesleyan-holiness tradition. We look to the Bible as our primary source of truth as it proclaims Christ to us, and "all things necessary to our salvation."

We are a Holiness people. We believe that the

grace of God provides not only forgiveness for sins but also the cleansing of our hearts by faith. By this gracious act of the Holy Spirit, we are sanctified and empowered to live Christlike lives in the world.

We are a Missional people. We believe God calls us to participation in the kingdom mission of reconciliation. We do this by preaching the gospel, by acts of compassion and justice, and by making disciples after the pattern of Jesus.

District Superintendent to the pastor: Pastor, would you please now present those who will be the charter members of (name) Church of the Nazarene?

Pastor: (name of district superintendent), it is my honor to present to you the charter members of this congregation. I commend them to you as brothers and sisters in Christ who are committed to our common mission as members of the Church of the Nazarene.

(Pastor reads the names or introduces each member or family.)

District Superintendent: Brothers and Sisters, I ask you now to reaffirm your membership vows.

Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and do you realize that He saves you now?

Response: I do.

Do you affirm the Agreed Statement of Belief of the Church of the Nazarene?

Response: I do.

Do you covenant to give yourself to the fellowship and work of God in connection with the Church of the Nazarene as set forth in the Covenant of Christian Character and the Covenant of Christian Conduct? Will you endeavor in every way to glorify God, by a humble walk, godly conversation, and holy service; by devotedly giving of your means; by faithful attendance upon the means of grace; and, abstaining from all evil, will you seek earnestly to perfect holiness of heart and life in the fear of the Lord?

Response: I will.

District Superintendent: Therefore, by the authority entrusted to me as superintendent of the (name) District Church of the Nazarene, I hereby declare the official organization of the (name) Church of the Nazarene. Welcome to the global family of Nazarene congregations. May the Lord in His great mercy equip you daily with everything good for doing His will. And may the peace of Christ be with you.

806. INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Following the singing of an appropriate hymn, let the secretary read the names and positions of the officers to be installed. These may come forward and stand at the altar of the church, facing the minister. A covenant card* should be provided for each. The minister shall then say:

Recognizing God's method of setting apart certain workers for specific areas of Christian service, we come to this moment of installation of these officers (and/or teachers) who have been duly chosen to serve in our church for the ensuing year. Let us consider God's instructions to us from His Holy Word.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2).

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

*Available from NPH

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Galatians 6:6).

We now come to this important moment when you who stand before the altar are to take upon yourselves the task of caring for the affairs of the church and Nazarene Missions International (NMI), Nazarene Youth International (NYI), and Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI). May you look upon the assignments you now assume as special opportunities for service for our Lord, and may you find joy and spiritual blessing in the performance of your respective duties.

Yours is no light task, for the ongoing of the church and the destiny of souls is in your hands. The development of Christian character is your responsibility, and leading the unsaved to Jesus Christ is your highest objective. May God grant you wisdom and strength as you do His work for His glory.

You have been given a card on which is printed a covenant. We shall read it in unison, and as we do so, let us make it a personal commitment.

WORKER'S COVENANT

In consideration of the confidence placed in me by the church in being selected for the office I now assume, I hereby covenant:

To maintain a high standard of Christian living and example in harmony with the ideals and standards of the Church of the Nazarene.

To cultivate my personal Christian experience by setting aside each day definite time for prayer and Bible reading.

To be present at the regular Sunday School, the Sunday morning and Sunday evening preaching services, and the midweek prayer meeting of the church, unless providentially hindered.

To attend faithfully all duly called meetings of the various boards, councils, or committees to which I have been, or will be, assigned.

To notify my superior officer if I am unable to be present at the stated time, or to carry out my responsibilities in this office.

To read widely the denominational publications, and other books and literature which will be helpful to me in discharging the duties of my office.

To improve myself and my skills by participating in Continuing Lay Training courses as opportunity is afforded.

To endeavor to lead people to Jesus Christ by manifesting an active interest in the spiritual

welfare of others and by attending and supporting all evangelistic meetings in the church.

The minister shall then offer an appropriate prayer, and a special song of dedication may be sung, after which the minister shall say:

Having pledged together your hearts and hands to the task of carrying forward the work of this church in your particular assignments, I herewith install you in the respective positions to which you have been elected or appointed. You are now a vital part of the organizational structure and leadership of this church. May you, by example, by precept, and by diligent service, be effective workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

The minister shall ask the congregation to rise, and shall address them as follows:

You have heard the pledge and covenant entered into by your church leaders for the coming year. I now charge you, as a congregation, to be loyal in your support of them. The burdens which we have laid upon them are heavy, and they will need your assistance and prayers. May you always be understanding of their problems and tolerant of their seeming failures. May you lend assistance joyfully when called upon, so that, as we work together, our church may be an effective instrument in winning the lost to Christ.

The minister may then lead in a concluding prayer or have the congregation repeat the Lord's Prayer in unison.

807. CHURCH DEDICATIONS

Minister: Having been prospered by the hand of the Lord and enabled by His grace and strength to complete this building to the glory of His name, we now stand in God's presence to dedicate this structure to the service of His kingdom.

To the glory of God our Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; to the honor of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior; and to the praise of the Holy Spirit, Source of light, and life, and power—our Sanctifier,

Congregation: We do now, with joy and gratitude, humbly dedicate this building.

Minister: In remembrance of all who have loved and served this church, establishing the heritage we now enjoy, and who are now part of the Church Triumphant,

Congregation: We gratefully dedicate this edifice (sanctuary, education building, fellowship hall, etc.).

Minister: For worship in prayer and song, for the preaching of the Word, for the teaching of the Scriptures, and for the fellowship of the saints,

Congregation: We solemnly dedicate this house of God.

Minister: For the comfort of those who mourn, for the strengthening of the weak, for the help of those who are tempted, and for the giving of hope and courage to all who come within these walls,

Congregation: We dedicate this place of fellowship and prayer.

Minister: For the sharing of the good news of salvation from sin, for the spreading of scriptural holiness, for the giving of instruction in righteousness, and for the service of our fellowmen,

Congregation: We reverently dedicate this building.

Unison: We, as laborers together with God, now join hands and hearts and dedicate ourselves anew to the high and holy purposes to which this building has been set apart. We pledge our loyal devotion, faithful stewardship, and diligent service to the end that in this place the name of the Lord shall be glorified, and His kingdom shall be advanced; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PART VIII

Bylaws/Charter/ Constitution

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

CHAPTER I

810. NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL CHARTER

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

810.1 Our Mission

The mission of Nazarene Youth International is to call our generation to a dynamic life in Christ.

810.2 Our Members

Membership in Nazarene Youth International includes all persons participating in Nazarene youth ministry who choose to embrace our stated vision and values.

810.3 Our Vision

The Church of the Nazarene believes that young people are an integral part of the Church. Nazarene Youth International exists to lead young people into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and to facilitate their growth as disciples for Christian service.

810.4 Our Values

1. We value ***Young People*** . . . significant in the kingdom of God.
2. We value the ***Bible*** . . . God's unchanging truth for our lives.
3. We value ***Prayer*** . . . vital interactive communication with our heavenly father.
4. We value the ***Church*** . . . a global holiness community of faith, diverse in culture but one in Christ.
5. We value ***Worship*** . . . life-changing encounters with an intimate God.
6. We value ***Discipleship*** . . . a lifestyle of becoming like Christ.

7. We value ***Community*** . . . building relationships that help bind us together and to God.
8. We value ***Ministry***. . .extending God's grace to our world.
9. We value ***Witness*** . . . sharing God's love in word and deed.
10. We value ***Holiness***. . . a work of grace whereby God, through the working of His Holy Spirit, enables us to live a life representing Christ in who we are and in everything we do.

These values are important dimensions of the holy life and are to be reflected in the life and ministry of NYI at every level of the church. (Please refer to the Articles of Faith in the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* for more information on these values.) In reflecting these values, we acknowledge the following Guiding Principles.

810.5 Our Guiding Principles

1. ***NYI exists for youth.***
   Nazarene Youth International exists to attract, equip, and empower young people for service in the kingdom of God and to facilitate their integration into the Church of the Nazarene.
2. ***NYI focuses on Christ.***
   Christ is central to who we are, the Word of God our authoritative source for all we do, and holiness our pattern for life.
3. ***NYI is built on relational ministry to youth in the local church.***
   Effective ministry to young people in the local church is critical to the health and vibrancy of NYI. Relationships and incarnational ministry form the foundation for Nazarene youth ministry, guiding young people toward spiritual maturity in Christ.
4. ***NYI develops and mentors young leaders.***
   NYI provides opportunities for emerging leaders to develop and utilize their gifts within an envi-

ronment of nurture and support, assuring strong leadership for the Church of the Nazarene. Leadership training, accountability, and mechanisms for evaluation and modification of ministry are vital functions of NYI.

5. ***NYI is empowered to lead.***
Relevant youth ministry requires that responsibility for ministry and organizational decisions reside with NYI leadership and the appropriate governing bodies at every level. A sense of belonging and ownership, a passion for service, and input in decision-making are key ingredients for the empowerment of young people through NYI.

6. ***NYI embraces unity and diversity in Christ.***
NYI is committed to understanding and celebrating differences and diversity in language, color, race, culture, socioeconomic class, and gender. Our differences do not diminish unity but enhance our potential and effectiveness. Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in culturally relevant ways must always be a high priority.

7. ***NYI creates networks and partnerships.***
A climate of cooperation characterizes our relationships at every level of NYI. Networking within the church enhances the development and deployment of young people for service; NYI actively participates in such cooperative endeavors.

810.6 Our Ministry Framework

The Nazarene Youth International Charter provides the foundation for organizing, planning, and implementing youth ministry at every level of the Church of the Nazarene. Standard ministry plans are provided that local, district, and regional NYI groups are encouraged to adapt in response to youth ministry needs in their own ministry situation. Ministry plans at every level must be consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.*

810.7 Revisions

The NYI Charter may be amended through resolutions approved by the Global NYI Convention, according to the Global Ministry Plan.

A. LOCAL MINISTRY PLAN

Membership and Ministry Focus

810.50 Composition and Accountability

1. Local NYI membership consists of those who affiliate themselves with an NYI group by participating in its ministries and joining the local group.
2. The local NYI maintains an accurate roster of all active members.
3. The local NYI is accountable to its membership, the local church board, and the pastor.
4. The local NYI reports monthly to the church board and to the annual church meeting.

810.51 Ministry Focus

1. The traditional ministry focus of the local NYI is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults. A local NYI Council may modify the ministry focus as seen fit with the approval of the pastor and local church board.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, the local NYI council establishes age divisions in response to local youth ministry needs.

Leadership

810.52 Officers

1. The officers of the local NYI are a president and up to three persons elected by the annual NYI meeting with assigned ministry responsibilities according to local church needs. These officers serve on the Executive Committee.

2. Local NYI officers must be members of the local church whose NYI they serve, active in local youth ministry, and leaders in personal example and service.
3. In churches not having an organized NYI (no local NYI Council), the pastor, with church board approval, may appoint the NYI president so that the church may begin to reach young people for Christ and respond to their spiritual growth needs.

810.53 Elections

1. Officers are elected annually by the members of the local NYI at the annual meeting and serve until their successors are elected and assume their ministry roles.
2. A nominating committee nominates the officers for NYI. A Nominating Committee is appointed by the pastor and consists of NYI members, as well as the pastor and the NYI president. All nominees are to be approved by the pastor and church board. Persons nominated as local NYI president must have reached their 15th birthday at the time of their election.
3. Officers are elected by majority vote of the NYI members present at the annual NYI meeting. When there is only one nominee for a position, a "yes" and "no" ballot is used, with approval by two-thirds majority vote. Only those who are also members of the local Church of the Nazarene may vote for the president.
4. An incumbent officer may be reelected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such vote is recommended by the NYI Council to the nominating committee, approved by the pastor and church board, and approved by two-thirds majority vote at the annual NYI meeting.
5. A vacancy occurs when an officer moves his/her membership from the church, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds majority vote of the council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among officers, the NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds majority vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees. If the vacancy oc-

curs in the office of NYI president, the pastor, youth pastor, or his/her designee chairs the meeting for election.

810.54 Responsibilities

1. The responsibilities of the NYI president include:
    a. Chairing the NYI Council to cast a vision for youth ministry in the church.
    b. Facilitating the development of youth ministry and working with the NYI Council to define the ministry focus in response to the needs of their young people.
    c. Serving on the church board and submitting a monthly report to the board. A local church board may establish prior to the annual election a minimum age for the NYI president to serve on the church board; should the president be younger, alternate representation for NYI on the church board may be appointed by the NYI Council, subject to the approval of the board.
    d. Submitting an annual report of ministry and finances to the annual church meeting.
    e. Recommending the budget for the local NYI, as approved by the NYI Council, to the church board.
    f. Serving as an *ex officio* member of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board to coordinate youth Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups in the church.
    g. Serving as a delegate to the District NYI Convention and the District Assembly. Should the president be unable to attend, a representative elected by the NYI Council and approved by pastor and the church board may provide alternate representation.
2. The responsibilities of other NYI officers include:
    a. Developing and designating leaders for various local NYI ministries.
    b. Being role models and spiritual guides for youth both within and outside the church.
    c. Defining and assigning titles and youth ministry responsibilities in response to local church needs.
    d. Distributing the following responsibilities to insure accountability and effectiveness:

(1) Keeping a correct record of all meetings of the NYI Council and attending to all matters of correspondence for the local NYI.
(2) Disbursing, receiving, and keeping records of NYI funds according to church board policy.
(3) Compiling an annual financial report of all moneys raised and disbursed to submit to the annual church meeting.
(4) Working with the NYI president to create an annual budget to present to the council and to the church board for approval.

5. Cooperating with the president in every way possible to facilitate the local NYI ministry.
6. Carrying out other ministries as assigned by the NYI Council.

810.55 Paid Staff

1. When a youth pastor is employed in a church, the pastor, in consultation with the church board and NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for NYI to the youth pastor. In that case, the youth pastor carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to a local NYI president. However, the importance of the NYI president remains, in providing vital lay leadership, support, and representation for local youth ministry. The pastor, youth pastor and NYI Council work together to define the roles and responsibilities of the two positions and how they work together for the benefit of the church's youth ministry.
2. A youth pastor may not serve as the NYI president.
3. The youth pastor serves *ex officio* on the NYI Council, the Executive Committee, and the NYI Nominating Committee.
4. The youth pastor may serve as the pastor's designee for NYI-related responsibilities.
5. If a church has multiple paid staff that minister to specific age divisions within NYI, it may develop officers for each age division under staff leadership and determine from among those officers how NYI is to be represented on the church board.

Council

810.56 Composition

1. The Local NYI Council is composed of the NYI officers, other elected or appointed youth member-at-large and ministry leaders as deemed necessary, and the pastor and/or youth pastor, who collectively cast the vision for local youth ministry.
2. NYI Council members must be members of the local Nazarene Youth International. Local church membership is strongly encouraged and NYI Council members should be expected to become church members.

810.57 Elections

1. A NYI Nominating Committee nominates local NYI members to be elected to the NYI Council.
2. The NYI membership then elects the members of the NYI Council from submitted nominations by majority vote at the annual NYI meeting.
3. A vacancy occurs when a council member moves his/her membership from the local NYI, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds majority vote of the council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among council members, the NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds majority vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees.
4. If a church has fewer than seven NYI members, the pastor may appoint the members of the NYI Council so that youth ministry may be developed and young people are reached for Christ.

810.58 Responsibilities

1. The NYI Council is responsible for planning and organizing the total ministry for youth within the local church and, through its officers and directors, initiates and directs ministries and activities to reach young people for Christ and to respond to their spiritual growth needs, in harmony with local church leadership.

2. The NYI Council defines the ministry focus of the local NYI in response to local youth ministry needs, and develops and assigns titles and job descriptions for ministry directors.
3. The NYI Council gives leadership to the youth area of the Sunday School by promoting growth in enrollment and attendance for youth, nominating and providing training for youth Sunday School/Bible study/small group teachers and leaders, and recommending curriculum and resources to be used, in cooperation with the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board.
4. The NYI Council cooperates with the District NYI Council in promoting district, regional, and global NYI ministries to young people of the church.
5. The NYI Council establishes and communicates the process for submitting revisions to the local ministry plan.

810.59 Committees

1. The NYI Executive Committee consists of elected NYI officers and the pastor or youth pastor. The Executive Committee may conduct the business of the NYI Council when necessary. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.
2. The NYI Council may establish specific ministry or age division committees in response to youth ministry needs.

810.60 Paid Staff

1. The pastor designates the responsibilities of a youth pastor, in consultation with the church board and the NYI Council.
2. The NYI Council and youth pastor work in cooperation and harmony with each other.
3. If a church has multiple paid staff who minister to specific age divisions within NYI, it may develop NYI councils or committees for each of these age divisions under staff leadership. The church may decide whether a coordinating council for the various groups is used.

Meetings

810.61 Local NYI Meetings

1. A variety of local NYI gatherings help provide effective ministry to young people.
2. The local NYI group participates in district, regional, and global NYI gatherings that further enhance youth ministry in the church.

810.62 NYI Council Meetings

1. The NYI Council meets regularly to fulfill the mission and vision of NYI.
2. Meetings of the council may be scheduled or called by the president or pastor.

810.63 Annual Meeting

1. The annual meeting of the local NYI is held within sixty days of the District NYI Convention and in harmony with the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.*
2. NYI officers and council members and delegates to the District NYI Convention are elected at the annual NYI meeting.
3. The NYI local ministry plan may be revised by two-thirds majority vote at the NYI annual meeting.

Ministries

810.64 Evangelism

The NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

810.65 Discipleship

The NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ, in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

810.66 Leadership Development

The NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing min-

istries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

Revisions

810.67 Provision

1. This local ministry plan provides a standard format for the organization, function, and leadership of NYI at the local level. A local NYI group may adapt the plan in response to local youth ministry needs, consistent with the Nazarene Youth International Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.*
2. Any area not covered by this ministry plan is under the authority of the local NYI Council.

810.68 Process

1. The NYI Council establishes and publicizes the process for adapting and revising the local ministry plan and must approve proposed revisions prior to their being brought to the annual NYI meeting.
2. Proposed revisions to the local ministry plan must be distributed to NYI members prior to the NYI annual meeting.
3. Revisions must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all NYI members present and voting at the annual NYI meeting and are subject to church board approval.
4. All changes in the local ministry plan become effective no later than 30 days following the NYI annual meeting. The revised plan must be posted in written form prior to taking effect.

B. DISTRICT MINISTRY PLAN

Membership and Ministry Focus

810.100 Composition and Accountability

1. All local NYI groups and members of NYI within the boundaries of a district form the district Nazarene Youth International.

2. The district NYI is accountable to its membership, the district superintendent, and the District Advisory Board.
3. The district NYI reports annually to the District NYI Convention and the District Assembly through the district NYI president.

810.101 Ministry Focus

1. The traditional ministry focus of the district NYI is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults. A District NYI Council may modify the ministry focus as seen fit, with the approval of the district superintendent and District Advisory Board.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, the District NYI Council establishes age divisions according to youth ministry needs on the district.

Leadership

810.102 Officers

1. The officers of the district NYI are the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
2. District NYI officers must be members of a local Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of the district at the time of their election, be active in local and district youth ministry, and be viewed as leaders in personal example and ministry.
3. District NYI officers serve without salary. Financing for the administrative expenses of district NYI officers is allocated as a part of the district NYI budget.
4. Should a district not yet have an organized NYI (no District NYI Convention), the district superintendent may appoint a district NYI president so that local churches may be assisted in reaching young people for Christ and in responding to their spiritual growth needs.

810.103 Elections

1. District NYI officers are elected by the District NYI Convention to serve for a one-year term, from the close of the

convention until their successors are elected and assume their ministry roles. At the recommendation of the district NYI Nominating Committee and with the approval of the district superintendent, an officer may be elected for a two-year term.

2. A district NYI Nominating Committee nominates the officers of the district NYI. The nominating committee is appointed by the District NYI Council and consists of at least four district NYI members, and also includes the district superintendent and the district NYI president. All nominees must be approved by the District NYI Council and district superintendent.
3. Officers are then elected by ballot by majority vote at the annual NYI Convention. When there is only one nominee for a position, a "yes" and "no" ballot is used, with approval by two-thirds majority vote. If recommended by the nominating committee, the convention may vote to allow the District NYI Council to appoint the district NYI secretary and treasurer.
4. An incumbent officer may be reelected by a "yes" or "no" vote when such vote is recommended by the District NYI Council, with the approval of the district superintendent and approved by two-thirds majority vote of the District NYI Convention.
5. A vacancy occurs when an officer moves his/her membership from the district, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds majority vote of the council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur in the office of district NYI president, the vice-president assumes the responsibilities of president until the next District NYI Convention. Should a vacancy occur among other officers, the District NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds majority vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees.

810.104 Responsibilities

1. The responsibilities of the district NYI president include:
   a. Giving leadership and direction to district NYI, working in cooperation with NYI and district leadership.

   b. Chairing the District NYI Council to cast a vision for youth ministry on the district.
   c. Facilitating the development of youth ministry on the district and working with the District NYI Council to define the district NYI ministry focus according to needs.
   d. Presiding at the District NYI Convention.
   e. Encouraging the development of NYI ministry in each local church within the district.
   f. Representing the interests of NYI on all appropriate district boards and committees.
   g. Submitting an annual report to the District NYI Convention and District Assembly.
   h. Presenting an annual budget to the District Finance Committee (or appropriate district body) and to the District NYI Convention for approval.
   i. Serving as a delegate to the Global NYI Convention. Should the president be unable to attend, a representative elected by the District NYI Council and approved by district superintendent and district advisory board may provide alternate representation.
   j. Serving as a member of the Regional NYI Council, if so designated by the ministry plan of the region.
2. The responsibilities of the vice president include:
   a. Cooperating with the president in every way possible to carry out effective youth ministry on the district.
   b. Performing the duties of the president in his/her absence.
   c. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the District NYI Council and Convention.
   d. In case of a vacancy in the office of district NYI president, fulfilling the functions of president until a successor is elected and installed.
3. The responsibilities of the secretary include:
   a. Keeping a correct record of all the proceedings of the District NYI Council, the Executive Committee, and the District NYI Convention.
   b. Attending to all matters of correspondence for the district NYI.

   c. Notifying the global NYI Office and regional NYI president of the names and addresses of the various district NYI officers and ministry directors as soon as possible after election.
   d. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the District NYI Council and Convention.
4. The responsibilities of the treasurer include:
   a. Disbursing, receiving, and keeping record of district NYI funds.
   b. Compiling an annual financial report of all moneys raised and disbursed to submit to the annual District NYI Convention.
   c. Working with the president to create an annual budget to present to the appropriate bodies.
5. Other responsibilities may be assigned to officers according to district youth ministry needs.

810.105 Paid Staff

1. When a district employs a youth pastor, the district superintendent, in consultation with the District Advisory Board and District NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for the district NYI to the district youth pastor. In that case, the district youth pastor carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to a district NYI president. However, the importance of the district NYI president remains, in providing additional leadership, support, and representation for district youth ministry. The District NYI Council and district superintendent work together to define the roles and responsibilities of the two positions and how they work together for the benefit of the district youth ministry.
2. A district youth pastor may not serve as the district NYI president.
3. The district youth pastor serves *ex officio* on the District NYI Council, the Executive Committee, and the District NYI Nominating Committee.
4. The district youth pastor may serve as the district superintendent's designee for NYI-related responsibilities.

Council

810.106 Composition

1. The District NYI Council is composed of the officers of the district NYI, other elected or appointed youth members-at-large and ministry leaders as deemed necessary by the council, and the district superintendent and/or district youth pastor.
2. Only NYI members who are members of the Church of the Nazarene on the district may serve as District NYI Council members.

810.107 Elections

1. The district NYI Nominating Committee nominates district NYI members to be elected to the District NYI Council.
2. The District NYI Convention then elects the members of the District NYI Council from submitted nominations by majority vote.
3. A vacancy occurs when a council member moves his/her membership off of the district, resigns, or is removed from office by the council by two-thirds majority vote due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among council members, the District NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds majority vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees.
4. The nominating committee may authorize the District NYI Council to appoint district ministry directors.

810.108 Responsibilities

1. The District NYI Council is responsible for planning and organizing the total ministry for youth within the district and, through its officers and directors, initiates and directs ministries and activities to reach young people for Christ and to respond to their spiritual growth needs, in harmony with district leadership.
2. The District NYI Council defines the ministry focus of

district NYI in response to district youth ministry needs and develops and assigns titles and responsibilities for district NYI ministry directors.

3. The District NYI Council encourages and equips local churches across the district for effective youth ministry.
4. The District NYI Council gives leadership to the youth area of the district Sunday School/Bible study/small group by promoting growth in enrollment and attendance for youth and by providing training for youth Sunday School teachers and leaders in cooperation with the District Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board.
5. The District NYI Council promotes regional and global NYI ministries and programs to local NYI groups.
6. The District NYI Council makes recommendations to the District NYI Convention concerning the ministry of NYI. The convention may revise these recommendations prior to adoption.
7. The District NYI Council establishes and communicates the process for amending the district ministry plan.

810.109 Committees

1. The NYI Executive Committee consists of elected district NYI officers and the district superintendent and/or district youth pastor. Should the secretary and treasurer be appointed members of the council, the council may elect by majority vote two other District NYI Council members to serve on the Executive Committee. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.
2. The District NYI Council may establish specific ministry or age division committees in response to district youth ministry needs.

810.110 Zone NYI

1. In cooperation with district leadership, the District NYI Council may authorize various zones within the existing structure of the district to organize for leadership of NYI, in order to coordinate and maximize NYI ministry across the district.

2. A zone NYI council may be created to have responsibility for specific ministries and activities on the zone.
3. A president or representative from each zone may serve on the District NYI Council, if so specified by the District NYI Convention.

810.111 Paid Staff

1. The district superintendent designates the responsibilities of a district youth pastor, in consultation with the District Advisory Board and District NYI Council.
2. The District NYI Council and district youth pastor work in cooperation and harmony with each other.

Meetings

810.112 District NYI Meetings

1. A variety of district NYI gatherings help provide effective ministry to young people.
2. The district NYI also encourages and enhances local NYI ministry by meeting with local NYI groups across the district to resource them for effective ministry.
3. The district NYI participates in regional and global NYI gatherings that further enhance effective youth ministry across the district.

810.113 District NYI Council Meetings

1. The District NYI Council meets regularly to fulfill the mission and vision of district NYI.
2. Meetings of the council may be scheduled or called by the district NYI president or district superintendent.

810.114 District NYI Convention

1. The annual District NYI Convention provides for inspirational sessions and programs to advance youth ministry across the district. Reports are received, leadership is elected, and any legislative business pertaining to the work of NYI is transacted at the Convention. Delegates

to the Global NYI Convention are also elected consistent with the NYI Global Ministry Plan.

2. The District NYI Council arranges for and oversees the District NYI Convention, in cooperation with the district superintendent. The Convention convenes at a time and place designated by the District NYI Council, with the approval of the district superintendent and within ninety days of the District Assembly.
3. The District NYI Convention is composed of the members of the District NYI Council, the district superintendent, local pastors, other assigned ordained ministers of the district who participate in NYI ministry, and local NYI delegates.
4. All local NYI delegates to the District NYI Convention must be members of the Church of the Nazarene that they represent.
5. The number of local NYI delegates for each church is determined by the membership figures on the most recent local Pastor's Report prior to the District Assembly. District NYI leadership encourages local churches to make suitable arrangements for the expenses of delegates attending the District NYI Convention.
6. The local NYI delegation to the District NYI Convention for churches with 30 or fewer NYI members consists of:
   a. The pastor and youth pastor or any full-time paid pastoral staff who participate in NYI ministry;
   b. The newly-elected local NYI president;
   c. Up to four elected delegates, with at least half being within the district-established NYI ministry focus.
   d. Local churches may add an additional delegate for each successive 30 local NYI members and/or final major part of those 30 members (i.e., 16-29 members). At least half of any additional delegates must be also within the district-established NYI ministry focus.
7. The pastor of any local church or director of an approved Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Center not having an organized NYI may appoint one delegate.

Number of members	Number of delegates*	Number of members	Number of delegates*
5-45	4	136-165	8
46-75	5	166-195	9
76-105	6	196-225	10
106-135	7	226-255	11

Ministries

810.115 Evangelism

The district NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

810.116 Discipleship

The district NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

810.117 Leadership Development

The district NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

Revisions

810.118 Provision

1. This district ministry plan provides a standard format for the organization, function, and leadership of NYI at

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*Number of elected delegates from a local NYI does not include ex officio delegates (NYI president, pastor, youth pastor, District NYI Council members from a local church, etc.).

the district level. The district NYI may adapt and revise the plan in response to youth ministry needs on the district, consistent with the Nazarene Youth International Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.
2. Any area not covered by this ministry plan is under the authority of the District NYI Council

810.119 Process

1. The District NYI Council establishes and publicizes the process for adapting and revising the district ministry plan, and must approve proposed revisions prior to their being brought to the District NYI Convention.
2. Proposed revisions to the district ministry plan must be distributed in written form to local NYI groups prior to the District NYI Convention.
3. Revisions must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all delegates and members present and voting at the District NYI Convention and are subject to the approval of the district superintendent and District Advisory Board.
4. All changes in the district ministry plan become effective no later than 60 days following the Convention. The revised document must be distributed in written form prior to taking effect.

C. REGIONAL MINISTRY PLAN

Membership and Ministry Focus

810.150 Composition and Accountability

1. All local NYI groups, district NYI ministries, and members of NYI within the boundaries of a region form the regional Nazarene Youth International.
2. The regional NYI is accountable to its membership and to the Global NYI Council. Where applicable, the regional NYI may also be accountable to the regional director and Regional Advisory Council.
3. The regional NYI reports to the Global NYI Council on

an annual basis and, where applicable, to the regional director and Regional Advisory Council on a regular basis.

810.151 Ministry Focus

1. The traditional ministry focus of the regional NYI is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and young adults. A Regional NYI Council may modify the ministry focus as seen fit, with the approval of the districts on the region and, where applicable, the regional director.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, the Regional NYI Council establishes age divisions according to youth ministry needs on the region.

Leadership

810.152 Officers

1. The officers of the regional NYI are the president and up to three other persons elected by the Regional Caucus at the Global NYI Convention, with titles and ministry responsibilities assigned according to regional needs. These officers serve on the Executive Committee.
2. Regional NYI officers must reside on and be members of the Church of the Nazarene within the bounds of the region at the time of their election, be active in youth ministry, and be viewed as leaders in personal example and ministry.
3. Regional NYI officers serve without salary. Financing for the administrative expenses of regional NYI officers is allocated as a part of regional funds.
4. A regional NYI president may serve in his/her position no more than two full terms.

810.153 Election

1. Regional NYI officers are elected by the Regional Caucus of the Global NYI Convention, and approved by the convention. The officers serve for a four-year term, from the close of the General Assembly until the close of the following General Assembly.

2. A regional NYI Nominating Committee nominates the officers of the regional NYI. The nominating committee is appointed by the Regional NYI Council and consists of at least four regional NYI members, including the regional NYI president and regional director (where applicable). At least two names are submitted to the caucus for each position. The Regional NYI Council and regional director (where applicable) must approve all nominees.
3. The regional NYI president is elected by majority vote of the Regional Caucus at the Global NYI Convention and approved by majority vote of the convention, according to the NYI Global Ministry Plan. Other officers are elected by majority vote by ballot of the Regional Caucus.
4. An incumbent regional NYI president who is eligible to be elected for a second term may be re-elected by a "yes" or "no" vote, when such election is recommended by the Regional NYI Council, approved by the regional director (where applicable), and approved by two-thirds majority vote by ballot of the Regional Caucus at the Global NYI Convention.
5. A vacancy occurs when an officer moves his/her membership off of the region, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds majority vote of the Regional NYI Council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among officers, the Regional NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds majority vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees. In the case of such a vacancy in the office of regional NYI president, the region elects a new president consistent with the NYI Global Ministry Plan.

810.154 Responsibilities

1. The responsibilities of the regional NYI president include:
   a. Giving leadership and direction to the regional NYI, working in cooperation with NYI and regional leadership.
   b. Chairing the Regional NYI Council to cast a vision for youth ministry on the region.

c. Facilitating the development of youth ministry on the region and working with the Regional NYI Council to define the regional NYI ministry focus according to needs.
d. Presiding at the Regional Caucus at the Global NYI Convention.
e. Encouraging the development of NYI ministry on each district or field within the region.
f. Representing the interests of regional NYI on appropriate regional boards and committees and, when applicable, to multi-regional committees.
g. Submitting an annual report to the Regional NYI Council, regional director and Regional Advisory Council (where applicable), and the Global NYI Council.
h. Recommending an annual budget to the Regional NYI Council and the Regional Office (where applicable).
i. Serving as a delegate to the Global NYI Convention and a member of the Global NYI Council, except in the USA, where two representatives elected from among the regional NYI presidents serve as members of the Global NYI Council. Should the president be unable to attend, a representative elected by the Regional NYI Council and approved by regional director (where applicable) may provide alternate representation.
j. Serving as a liaison between the regional NYI and Nazarene institutions of higher education on the region to promote communication, cooperation, and ministry partnership.

2. The responsibilities of regional NYI officers include:
    a. Developing and designating leaders for the various regional NYI ministries.
    b. Defining and assigning titles and youth ministry responsibilities according to regional needs.
    c. Distributing the following responsibilities to insure accountability and effectiveness:
        (1) Keeping a correct record of all meetings of the Regional NYI Council and attending to all matters of correspondence for the regional NYI.
        (2) Disbursing, receiving, and keeping records of re-

gional NYI funds, according to Global NYI Council, General Board, and regional office policies.

(3) Assisting the president in compiling an annual financial report of all moneys raised and disbursed to submit to the Global NYI Council and other appropriate bodies.

(4) Working with the president to create an annual budget to present to the Regional NYI Council and to the regional director (where applicable) for approval.

(5) Notifying the NYI Office and the regional office (where applicable) of the names and addresses of the various regional NYI officers and ministry directors as soon as possible after election or appointment.

d. Cooperating with the president in every way possible to facilitate regional youth ministry.

e. Carrying out other ministries as assigned by the Regional NYI Council or Regional Caucus.

810.155 Paid Staff

1. When a region employs a regional NYI coordinator, the regional director, in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council and Regional NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for the regional NYI to the regional NYI coordinator. In that case, the regional NYI coordinator may carry out some of the duties otherwise designated to a regional NYI president. However, the importance of the regional NYI president remains, in providing additional leadership, support, and representation for regional youth ministry. The Regional NYI Council and regional director work together to define the roles and responsibilities of the two positions and how they work together for the benefit of the regional youth ministry.
2. A regional NYI coordinator may not serve as regional NYI president.
3. The regional NYI coordinator serves *ex officio* on the Regional NYI Council, the Executive Committee, and the Regional NYI Nominating Committee.

4. The regional NYI coordinator may serve as the regional director's designee for NYI-related responsibilities.

Council

810.156 Composition

1. The Regional NYI Council is composed of the officers of the regional NYI and other elected or appointed youth members-at-large and ministry leaders as deemed necessary by the council, and, where applicable, the regional director and/or regional NYI coordinator.
2. Only those NYI members who are members of the Church of the Nazarene on the region may serve as Regional NYI Council members.
3. When applicable, representatives from Nazarene colleges or universities responsible for shared ministry with the regional NYI may also serve on the Regional NYI Council.

810.157 Elections

1. A regional NYI Nominating Committee nominates regional NYI members to be elected to the Regional NYI Council.
2. The Regional Caucus at the Global NYI Convention then elects by majority vote the members of the Regional NYI Council from submitted nominations. The Regional Caucus may authorize the Regional NYI Council to appoint regional ministry directors.
3. A vacancy occurs when a member moves his/her membership off of the region, resigns, or is removed from office by two-thirds majority vote of the council due to neglect of duties or inappropriate conduct. Should a vacancy occur among council members elected or appointed by the council, the Regional NYI Council fills the vacancy by two-thirds majority vote if there is one nominee or by majority vote if two or more nominees. If a vacancy occurs among members representing a district on the region, the vacancy is filled according to that district's ministry plan.

810.158 Responsibilities

1. The Regional NYI Council is responsible for planning and organizing the total ministry for youth within the region and, through its officers and directors, initiates and directs ministries and activities to reach young people for Christ and to respond to their spiritual growth needs, in harmony with regional leadership.
2. The Regional NYI Council defines the ministry focus of regional NYI in response to regional youth ministry needs, and develops and assigns titles and responsibilities for regional NYI ministry directors.
3. The Regional NYI Council encourages and equips districts across the region for effective youth ministry.
4. The Regional NYI Council gives leadership to the youth area of Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups regionally by promoting growth in enrollment and attendance for youth and providing training for youth Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups teachers and leaders in cooperation with Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International.
5. The Regional NYI Council promotes global NYI ministries and programs to regional membership.
6. The Regional NYI Council directs the expenditure of funds provided to the region through NYI events and partnerships.
7. The Regional NYI Council makes recommendations to the Regional Caucus at the Global NYI Convention concerning the ministry of NYI. The council also appoints up to two persons to serve the region as members of the Resolutions Committee at the Global NYI Convention, consistent with the Global Ministry Plan.
8. The Regional NYI Council establishes and communicates the process for amending the regional ministry plan.

810.159 Committees

1. The NYI Executive Committee consists of the elected regional NYI officers and the regional director and/or regional NYI coordinator (where applicable). The Executive Committee may conduct the business of the Regional

NYI Council when it is impractical or impossible to convene the entire council. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.

2. The Regional NYI Council may establish specific ministry committees in response to regional youth ministry needs.
3. In countries where there are a number of districts, a region may organize national NYI leadership to coordinate and facilitate youth ministry in that country.

810.160 The Field NYI

1. Where applicable and in cooperation with regional church leadership, the Regional NYI Council may organize for leadership of NYI on the various fields within the existing structure of a region, in order to coordinate and maximize NYI ministry across the region.
2. A field NYI council may be created to have responsibility for specific ministries and activities on the field.
3. A president or elected representative from each field may serve on the Regional NYI Council, if so specified by the Regional Caucus.

810.161 Paid Staff

1. The regional director designates the responsibilities of a regional NYI coordinator, in consultation with the Regional Advisory Council and the Regional NYI Council.
2. The Regional NYI Council and regional NYI coordinator work in cooperation and harmony with each other.

Meetings

810.162 Regional NYI Meetings

1. A variety of regional NYI gatherings help provide effective ministry to young people on the region.
2. The regional NYI also encourages and enhances district NYI ministry by meeting with district NYI groups across the region to resource them for effective ministry.

3. The regional NYI participates in global NYI gatherings that further enhance effective youth ministry across the region.

810.163 Regional NYI Council Meetings

1. The Regional NYI Council meets regularly to fulfill the mission and vision of regional NYI.
2. Meetings of the council may be scheduled or called by the regional NYI president, regional director (where applicable), a global NYI officer, or the Director of NYI.

810.164 Regional Caucus

1. A Regional Caucus is convened during the Global NYI Convention. The caucus provides for inspirational sessions and programs to advance youth ministry across the region. Reports are received, leadership is elected, and any legislative business pertaining to the work of NYI on the region is transacted at the caucus. The caucus also places in nomination up to two names for each youth member-at-large on the Global NYI Council, consistent with the Global Ministry Plan.
2. The Regional NYI Council, in cooperation with the Global NYI Council, arranges for and oversees the Regional Caucus.
3. The Regional Caucus is composed of the members of the Regional NYI Council, the regional director and/or regional NYI coordinator (where applicable), and the delegates from the region to the Global NYI Convention who are elected, consistent with the Global Ministry Plan.
4. The caucus convenes during the Global NYI Convention at a time and place designated by the Global NYI Council. When approved by the Regional NYI Council, the regional director (where applicable), and the Global NYI Council, a caucus may be convened by postal or electronic means within six months prior to the Global NYI Convention in order to conduct regional NYI business when circumstances prohibit a majority of elected delegates from attending the Global NYI Convention.

Ministries

810.165 Evangelism

The regional NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

810.166 Discipleship

The regional NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

810.167 Leadership Development

The regional NYI develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

Revisions

810.168 Provision

1. The regional ministry plan provides a standard format for the organization, function, and leadership of NYI at the regional level. A regional NYI may adapt and revise the plan in response to youth ministry needs on the region, consistent with the Nazarene Youth International Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.
2. Any area not covered by this ministry plan is under the authority of the Regional NYI Council.

810.169 Process

1. The Regional NYI Council, in cooperation with the regional director (where applicable), establishes and publicizes the process for adapting and revising the regional ministry plan and must approve proposed revisions prior to their being brought to the Regional Caucus.
2. Proposed revisions to the regional ministry plan must be distributed in written form to district NYI councils prior to the Regional Caucus at the Global NYI Convention.

3. Revisions must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all delegates and members present and voting at the Regional Caucus and are subject to the approval of the regional director and Regional Advisory Council (where applicable).
4. All changes in the regional ministry plan become effective no later than 90 days following the Global NYI Convention. The revised document must be distributed in written form prior to taking effect.

D. GLOBAL MINISTRY PLAN

Membership and Ministry Focus

810.200 Composition and Accountability

1. All local NYI groups, district and regional NYI ministries, and their members constitute Nazarene Youth International at the global level.
2. The global NYI is accountable to NYI membership, the responsible general superintendent for NYI, and the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board.
3. The global NYI reports annually to the General Board through the Global Ministries Services Committee and reports quadrennially to the Global NYI Convention and to the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene.
4. The Director of NYI is responsible for general coordination and supervision for the development of youth ministry for the Church of the Nazarene through Nazarene Youth International.
5. NYI offices around the world work together with the Global NYI Council for the effective implementation of youth ministry globally for the Church of the Nazarene.

810.201 Ministry Focus

1. The ministry focus of Nazarene Youth International is to youth ages 12 and older, college/university students, and

young adults. Regional, district, and local NYI councils may modify the ministry focus as seen fit, consistent with the ministry plan for that level.
2. For the purposes of representation and programming, Nazarene Youth International at the global level establishes three divisions — early youth, senior youth, and college/university/young adult — in order to provide effective youth ministry globally.

Leadership

810.202 Officers

1. The elected officers of the global NYI are a president and a vice president.
2. Global NYI officers must be members of NYI and the Church of the Nazarene, be active in youth ministry, and be leaders in personal example and ministry.
3. Global NYI officers serve without salary. Financing for the administrative expenses of global NYI officers is allocated as a part of NYI funds.
4. A global NYI officer may serve in his/her position no more than one full term.

810.203 Elections

1. Global NYI officers are elected by the Global NYI Convention. The elected officers serve for a four-year term, from the close of the General Assembly until the close of the following General Assembly.
2. The various regional caucuses at the Global NYI Convention nominate the global NYI officers. A caucus may submit up to two nominees for each position, selected by majority vote of the caucus. The officers are then elected by majority vote by ballot of the Convention from the nominations submitted by each regional caucus.
3. A vacancy occurs in the position of global NYI president or vice president when he/she resigns from office or is removed from office by two-thirds majority vote of the Global NYI Council due to neglect of duties or inappro-

priate conduct. In the case of a vacancy among the global NYI officers during a quadrennium, such vacancies are filled according to the following sequence:

a. The Executive Committee of the Global NYI Council, serving as a nominating committee, submits two or more nominees to the responsible general superintendent for NYI;
b. After consultation with the Board of General Superintendents, the responsible general superintendent brings a ballot of approved nominees to the Global NYI Council;
c. Election is by two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Global NYI Council.

810.204 Responsibilities

1. The responsibilities of the global NYI president include:
   a. Providing vision and leadership to NYI in collaboration with the Director of NYI and NYI and church leaders at every level.
   b. Presiding at the meetings of the Global NYI Convention and the meetings of the Global NYI Council.
   c. Advancing the interest of the global NYI and the work of NYI around the world.
   d. Representing NYI as a member of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, with the approval of the General Assembly following election.
   e. Representing NYI as a member of the General Assembly at the close of his/her term.
   f. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the Global NYI Council and Convention.
2. The responsibilities of the global NYI vice president include:
   a. Cooperating with the president in every way possible to carry out effective youth ministry globally.
   b. Ensuring accurate records of all proceedings of the Global NYI Convention and all meetings of the Global NYI Council are kept for submission to the General Board through the Global Ministries Services Committee and to the General Assembly.

c. Chairing the Global NYI Council, providing alternate representation on any boards or councils, and fulfilling any designated duties in the absence of the global NYI president.
d. Conducting the election of a new global NYI president in the event of a vacancy, or assisting a region in the election of a new regional NYI president. Should there be a vacancy in the office of global NYI vice president, the global NYI president fulfills this function.
e. Carrying out other duties as assigned by the Global NYI Council and Convention.

810.205 Paid Staff

1. The responsible general superintendent for NYI and the General Board assign the responsibility for the global NYI to the Director of NYI. The Director of NYI is subject to the oversight of the Board of General Superintendents. The importance of the global NYI president remains, in providing additional leadership, support, and global representation for NYI. The Director of NYI and global NYI president, in consultation with the responsible general superintendent for NYI and the Global NYI Council, work together to define how they work together for the benefit of youth ministry.
2. The Board of General Superintendents elects the Director of NYI. When a vacancy occurs in the position, it is filled according to the following sequence:
   a. The responsible general superintendent nominates the Director of NYI, in consultation with the Global NYI Council and Board of General Superintendents.
   b. A ballot is then presented to the Global NYI Council for approval by majority vote. The ballot is then referred to the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board for approval by majority vote, and finally to the Board of General Superintendents for election.
3. The Global NYI Council approves by majority vote the nomination of the responsible general superintendent for NYI of an incumbent Director of NYI at the first sched-

uled meeting following the General Assembly, who is then approved by majority vote of the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board and elected by the Board of General Superintendents.
4. The director of NYI may not serve as an elected global NYI officer.
5. The director of NYI serves ex officio on the Global NYI Council, the Executive Committee, all regional councils, and other global NYI committees as appointed.

Council

810.206 Composition

1. The Global NYI Council is composed of the global NYI officers, the Director of NYI, all regional NYI presidents from outside the USA and Canada, and two regional NYI presidents representing regions within the USA and Canada.
2. Three youth members-at-large also serve as members of the Global NYI Council. One member-at-large is to be between the ages of 12 and 14 inclusive at the time of election, one between the ages of 15 and 18 inclusive at the time of election, and one between the ages of 19 and 23 inclusive at the time of election.
3. Regional NYI coordinators and the NYI USA/Canada coordinator serve *ex officio* on the Global NYI Council. Other appointed persons as deemed necessary by the Global NYI Council may be appointed to serve as non-voting members of the council.
4. All Global NYI Council members must be members of NYI and the Church of the Nazarene.

810.207 Elections

1. Regional NYI presidents are elected by majority vote of the Regional Caucus at the Global NYI Convention and approved by majority vote of the convention. At least two names are submitted to the caucus for each position. When circumstances prohibit a majority of elected dele-

gates from attending the Global NYI Convention, an election may be held by postal/electronic ballot of the elected delegates of a region within six months prior to the Global NYI Convention, when approved by the Regional NYI Council, the regional director (where applicable), and the Global NYI Council.

2. An incumbent regional NYI president who has served one term may be elected by a "yes" or "no" vote, when such a vote is recommended by the Regional NYI Council and approved by two-thirds vote of the Regional Caucus and by the Convention. No person may serve in the office of regional NYI president for more than two full terms.
3. The various regional caucuses at the Global NYI Convention nominate youth members-at-large to serve on the Global NYI Council. A caucus may submit up to two nominees for each position, selected by majority vote of the caucus. Council members-at-large are then elected by majority vote by ballot of the Convention from the nominations submitted. No person may serve as a youth member-at-large for more than one term.
4. The members of the Global NYI Council serve until the close of the following General Assembly.
5. A vacancy among Global NYI Council members occurs when a member resigns from office, is removed from office by two-thirds majority vote of the Global NYI Council due to neglect of duties, inappropriate conduct, or, in the case of regional NYI presidents, changes residence or church membership from their region or is removed by the Regional NYI Council. Should a vacancy occur among youth members-at-large, the Global NYI Council fills the vacancy by majority vote from two or more nominations submitted by the Executive Committee, acting as a nominating committee. In the case of a vacancy in the office of regional NYI president during the quadrennium, the region elects a new president as follows:
    a. When a special meeting of the Regional NYI Council is possible, such a meeting for the purpose of election may be conducted. A regional NYI Nominating Committee appointed by the global NYI vice president

submits at least two nominees to the Regional NYI Council for election by two-thirds majority vote. The global NYI vice president or his/her appointed designee, or the regional director (where applicable) chairs this special meeting.

b. When a special meeting is not practical, the global NYI vice president may conduct the ballot by postal, telephone, or electronic means.

c. A vacancy among the two regional NYI presidents representing the USA and Canada on the Global NYI Council is filled by majority vote of the USA/Canada regional NYI presidents.

810.208 Responsibilities

1. The Global NYI Council, in collaboration with the Director of NYI and NYI staff, establishes procedures for global NYI programs and events and gives direction and support to the development of youth ministry resources for all levels of NYI, subject to approval of the responsible general superintendent for NYI and the General Board. These NYI ministry programs, events, and resources designed to reach young people for Christ and respond to their spiritual growth needs are facilitated through the Director of NYI and NYI leadership around the world.
2. The Global NYI Council provides a forum for the support and development of effective youth ministry programs, events, and resources at the regional level, consistent with the mission and vision of NYI.
3. The Global NYI Council provides an avenue for the representation of regional, district, and local levels of NYI by council members to the NYI staff. Council members also represent the global NYI by initiating contact with their region, districts, and local churches on behalf of the Global NYI Council and the Nazarene Youth International Office.
4. The Global NYI Council assists in the planning and administration of the quadrennial Global NYI Convention.
5. The Global NYI Council gives input to the youth area of the Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups and helps promotes growth in enrollment and attendance for youth

and training for youth Sunday School/Bible study/small group teachers and leaders globally, in cooperation with Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International.

6. The Global NYI Council reviews the annual budget and expenditures of the NYI office provided through the General Board.
7. The Global NYI Council directs and reviews the expenditure of funds provided through NYI events and partnerships subject to the approval of the responsible general superintendent.

810.209 Committees

1. The Executive Committee consists of the elected Global NYI officers, the Director of NYI, and three other members of the council elected by majority vote of the council. The Executive Committee may conduct the business of the Global NYI Council when it is impractical or impossible to convene the entire council. All actions of the Executive Committee are communicated to the remaining members of the council and are subject to the approval of the entire council at its next meeting.
2. The Global NYI Council may establish specific ministry committees as necessary for advancing its work.

810.210 Paid Staff

1. The Director of NYI is subject to the oversight of the Board of General Superintendents and reports to the Global Ministries Services Committee. The Global NYI Council may recommend revisions to these duties to the responsible general superintendent for NYI.
2. The Director of NYI, in consultation with the Global NYI Council, designates the responsibilities of paid staff of NYI, including those assigned to serve the USA and Canada. The Global NYI Council and NYI Office staff work in cooperation and harmony with each other.
3. The Director of NYI, in consultation with the responsible general superintendent and the NYI USA/Canada Council, designates an NYI USA/Canada coordinator. The USA/Canada coordinator works in cooperation and harmony with the NYI USA/Canada Council.

4. Regional NYI coordinators outside of the USA and Canada work in cooperation and harmony with the Global NYI Council, the Director of NYI, and their regional director.
5. The director of NYI may not serve as the Global NYI president.

Meetings

810.211 Global NYI Meetings

1. To provide effective ministry to young people, global NYI ministry may involve a variety of gatherings for worship, teaching, training, fellowship, and evangelism. Global NYI leadership works together with regional, district, and local NYI leadership to plan ministry globally, related to specific groups, and geared to multiple regions, so that youth ministry in the Church of the Nazarene may be most effective.
2. Global NYI leaders and staff are actively involved with NYI on every level as a resource for effective ministry.

810.212 Global NYI Council Meetings

1. The Global NYI Council meets annually to advance the mission and vision of NYI. The meeting is scheduled in connection with the annual meeting of the General Board.
2. The global NYI officers or Director of NYI may call special meetings as necessary, in consultation with the responsible general superintendent for NYI.

810.213 Global NYI Convention

1. A quadrennial Global NYI Convention provides for inspirational sessions and programs to advance youth ministry around the world. Reports are received, leadership is elected, and any legislative business pertaining to the work of NYI is transacted at the Global NYI Convention.
2. The Board of General Superintendents sets the length of the Convention and the time it convenes, from recommendations of the Global NYI Council to the General Assembly Program Committee. The global NYI officers, Director

of NYI, and NYI staff and coordinators oversee the convention, with the assistance of the Global NYI Council.

3. All delegates of the Global NYI Convention must be members of the Church of the Nazarene and Nazarene Youth International and 12 years of age or older at the time of the Global NYI Convention. Additionally, each district NYI delegate must be a member of and reside on the district he/she represents at the time of the convention.
4. The Global NYI Convention is composed of the global NYI officers and members-at-large, the Director of NYI, duly elected executive regional officers (no more than three), the regional coordinators, field, national, and district NYI coordinators, and district NYI delegates as follows:
   a. Districts with 1,000 or fewer NYI members may send the following delegates:
      (1) The district NYI president serving at the time of the Global NYI Convention;
      (2) One ministerial delegate active in NYI leadership who is an assigned elder, deacon, or district-licensed minister;
      (3) One lay delegate over the age of 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention who is active in NYI leadership; and
      (4) One youth delegate between the ages of 12 and 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention who is active in NYI.
   b. In addition, a district may send an additional ministerial delegate, lay delegate, and youth delegate between the ages of 12 and 23 at the time of the Global NYI Convention, for each successive 1,500 NYI members and/or the final major part of 1,500 members (751-1,499 members).
   c. The size of the district delegation is based on the district NYI membership report for the District Assembly in the calendar year immediately prior to the Global NYI Convention.
   d. All district delegates are to be elected by ballot by majority vote at a session of the District NYI Convention within 18 months of the Global NYI Convention or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or ex-

tensive preparations are necessary. Alternate delegates may be elected after elected delegates on another ballot from the remaining nominations by plurality vote, with first alternate, second alternate, third alternate, etc., designated by the number of votes received. Delegates and alternates must be elected by December 31 of the year prior to the Global NYI Convention.

e. The student body president of each Nazarene university, college, or theological school, may also serve as a delegate, as a representative of the partnership of NYI with his/her institution. Should he/she be unable to serve or attend, a representative selected by the student government may provide alternate representation.

5. In the case of districts without an organized NYI (no District NYI Convention), Global NYI Convention representation may be comprised of one delegate of NYI membership age chosen by the District Assembly. Should a delegate withdraw prior to the convention, the District Advisory Board may appoint a qualified delegate.
6. The bar of the Global NYI Convention is set to enable all duly elected delegates to participate in the voting of the Global NYI Convention. This voting will take place by the voting procedures established by the Convention Business Committee.
7. A caucus for each region is held during the Global NYI Convention and is composed of the Regional NYI Council, the regional director and regional NYI coordinator (where applicable), and elected district NYI delegates from that region.

Number of members	Number of delegates*	Number of members	Number of delegates*
4-1750	3	4751-6250	12
1751-3250	6	6251-7750	15
3251-4750	9	7751-9250	18

*Number of elected delegates from a district NYI does not include *ex officio* delegates (district NYI president, regional NYI presidents and coordinators, global officers and members-at-large from a district, etc.).

Ministries

810.214 Evangelism

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to reach young people for Christ.

810.215 Discipleship

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to nurture and challenge young people to grow as disciples of Christ in personal devotion, worship, fellowship, ministry, and leading others to Christ.

810.216 Leadership Development

Nazarene Youth International at the global level develops and implements a variety of ongoing ministries and special events to mentor and equip young people to be leaders for Christ and His church.

Revisions

810.217 Provision

1. The Nazarene Youth International Charter and Global Ministry Plan provide the structure for organization, function, and leadership of NYI at the global level. The Global NYI Convention may revise the NYI Charter and Global Ministry Plan in response to youth ministry needs around the world through submitted resolutions. All amendments to the Global Ministry Plan must be consistent with the NYI Charter and the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene*.
2. Any area not covered by the NYI Charter or Global Ministry Plan is under the authority of the Global NYI Council and the Director of NYI.

810.218 Process

1. The Global NYI Council, in cooperation with the Director

of NYI, establishes and publicizes the process for amending the Global Ministry Plan and the Nazarene Youth International Charter through submitted resolutions.

2. Any District NYI Council, Regional NYI Council, the Global NYI Council, or at least six sponsoring delegates to the Global NYI Convention may submit these resolutions. Resolutions must be in proper resolution form and received by the stated deadline.
3. The NYI office must receive all resolutions at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting of the Global NYI Council in the year of the Global NYI Convention.
4. Resolutions must be distributed in written form to Global NYI Convention delegates prior to the Global NYI Convention.
5. Resolutions are considered first by the Global NYI Council and by a Resolutions Committee of the Global NYI Convention, composed of up to two NYI delegates appointed from each region by the Regional NYI Council. Those resolutions receiving a majority vote of either body to recommend their approval are then considered by the Convention.
6. Resolutions must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all delegates present and voting at the Global NYI Convention.
7. All approved changes in the Nazarene Youth International Charter and Global Ministry Plan become effective no later than 90 days following the Global NYI Convention. The revised document must be distributed in written form prior to taking effect.

CHAPTER II

811. NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Nazarene Missions International (NMI) of the Church of the Nazarene.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to mobilize the church in mission through praying, discipling, giving, and educating.

Article III. Structure

Section 1. Local

The local Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be an organization of the local church and shall work cooperatively with the pastor and Church Board through the Local NMI Council.

A local NMI may choose to have one or more groups to further the purpose of NMI (e.g., Sunday School classes/Bible studies/small groups, children's church, youth groups, chapters, special missions emphasis focus, etc.). Such groups and the appointment/election of officers shall be authorized by the Local NMI Council with approval by the pastor and the respective related leaders.

Section 2. District

The district Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be an organization of the _______________ District and work cooperatively with the district superintendent, District Advisory Board, and other district-related leaders through the District NMI Council.

All local NMI organizations within the boundaries of _______________ District shall constitute the district NMI.

Section 3. Global

The global Nazarene Missions International (NMI) shall be an organization of the Church of the Nazarene and work cooperatively with the Global NMI Council, the Global Mission office, the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board, and the general superintendent in jurisdiction.

All district and local NMI organizations shall constitute the global NMI.

Article IV. Membership

A. Members: Any person who is a member of the Church of the Nazarene and supports the Nazarene Missions International (NMI) purpose may be a member of NMI in that local church.
   1. Voting and holding office shall be limited to members who are 15 years of age or older, except in children's and youth groups.
   2. Unless otherwise stated in this constitution, reference to "members" means NMI members who are members of the church.

B. Associate Members: Any person who is not a member of the Church of the Nazarene and supports the NMI purpose may be an associate member of NMI.

Article V. Councils and Officers

Section 1. Local Council

A. Purpose: The Local Council shall promote the purpose of Nazarene Missions International (NMI) in the local church.

B. Composition
   1. The Council shall have four officers: a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
   2. Council members shall be responsible to mobilize the church in mission through praying, discipling, educating and giving. A council member may hold more than one position but only have one vote.
   3. The Executive Committee shall be the pastor (ex officio), NMI officers, and two other council members.

4. Any District NMI Council member shall be an ex officio member of the Local NMI Council with the approval of the Local NMI Council.

C. Nominations, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies
  1. Nominations: The Council shall be nominated by a committee of not less than three and no more than seven members of the NMI. The pastor shall appoint the nominating committee and serve as the committee chairman. All nominees shall be NMI members of the local Church of the Nazarene.
  2. Elections: The officers and a minimum of two additional council members shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall begin serving on the first day of the new church year after the election. If a local church has a unified treasurer who accounts for church funds, including NMI monies, and who has been elected by the Church Board, that person shall be the NMI treasurer as an ex officio member of the Local NMI Council with all rights and duties, unless otherwise specified by the Local Council.
     a. President
        (1) The nominating committee shall submit one or more names for the office of president, subject to the approval of the Church Board.
        (2) Incumbent nominees may be reelected by a yes/no ballot when such election is recommended by the nominating committee and approved by the pastor.
        (3) The president shall be elected by a majority vote by ballot of the members present and voting for a term of service of one or two church years. The NMI Council and the pastor shall recommend the length of the term of service.
     b. Each of the remaining officers shall be elected by ballot for a term of service of one or two church years, the length of the term to be recommended by the NMI Council and the pastor, by
        (1) A plurality vote; or
        (2) A yes/no vote, when such a vote is recommend-

ed by the nominating committee and approved by the pastor.

c. Additional council members, whose length of service shall be one church year, may be:
   (1) Elected to specific responsibilities, or
   (2) Elected to the Council as a whole with responsibilities to be determined later, or
   (3) Appointed by the Executive Committee.

d. Delegates and alternates to the District Convention shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting by a plurality vote. Alternates may be elected on a separate ballot, or at the recommendation of the Local Council, on the same ballot as the delegates. (See Article VI, Section 2, A.3. for determining the number of delegates.)

3. Appointments: In consultation with the pastor, additional council members may be appointed by the Executive Committee to a term of service of one church year and shall begin serving on the first day of the new church year or at any time after the appointment is made.

4. Vacancies
   a. President: The Executive Committee shall nominate one or more names with the approval of the Church Board. Election shall be by ballot with a majority vote of the NMI members at any regular or called meeting.
   b. Other Executive Committee members: The Executive Committee shall nominate one or more names. Election shall be by ballot by a plurality vote of the local NMI members at any regular or called meeting. If a local church has a unified treasurer, that vacancy shall be filled by the Church Board.
   c. Other council members: The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancy by appointment.

D. Duties of Council Members
   1. President
      a. Directs the work of NMI in the local church.
      b. Presides at all regular and special meetings of NMI.

   c. Promotes, or delegates responsibility for, all emphases not assigned by election or council action.
   d. Prepares an annual budget for approval by the Local NMI Council and Church Board.
   e. Submits annually written reports to the local NMI, the annual church meeting, the pastor of the local church, and the district NMI secretary.
   f. Serves as an ex officio member of the Church Board, Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Board, District NMI Convention, and District Assembly. In the case where the pastor's spouse serves as the local president, if he or she so desires not to serve on the Church Board, the vice president is authorized to serve on the Church Board in the president's place.
2. Vice President
   a. Performs all duties of the president when the president is absent.
   b. Serves in other areas as assigned by the Local NMI Council.
3. Secretary
   a. Conducts the correspondence of the NMI, keeps statistical records, and records the minutes of all business meetings.
   b. Keeps a complete list of all NMI members.
4. Treasurer
   a. Keeps an accurate account of all funds collected and expended.
   b. Ensures all offerings are sent to the designated treasurers in a timely manner.
   c. Furnishes the Council and, where applicable, the local church treasurer with all reports.
5. Executive Committee
   a. Appoints additional council members or fills vacancies on the Council.
   b. Transacts business between council meetings.
   c. Nominates one or more names for president if a vacancy occurs between annual meetings.
6. Other Council Members

a. Promote the emphases and/or responsibility to which they are assigned (see *NMI Handbook*).

Section 2: District Council

A. Purpose: The District Council shall promote the purpose of Nazarene Missions International within the district.

B. Composition

1. The Council shall have four officers: a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
2. Council members shall be responsible to mobilize the church in mission through praying, discipling, giving, and educating. A council member may hold more than one position but have only one vote.
3. Executive Committee shall be the district superintendent, NMI officers, and three other council members.

C. Nominations, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies

1. Nominations: The Council shall be nominated by a committee of not less than five (5) members of the NMI. The District Executive Committee shall appoint the nominating committee. The district superintendent shall serve as the committee chairman for the nomination of the district president. Upon approval of the district superintendent, the district NMI president may serve as chairman of the nominating committee for other nominations. All nominees shall be NMI members of a local Church of the Nazarene on the district where they will serve.
2. Elections: The president and at least four additional council members, one of which will be designated as vice president, shall be elected by ballot at the annual District Convention. (These four council positions do not include the secretary and treasurer. See Article V, Section 2, C., 2.c.) The term of service shall be one or two convention years. A convention year is from the adjournment of the District Convention to the adjournment of the next District Convention.

a. President

(1) The nominating committee shall submit at least two or more names for the office of presi-

dent except when nominating an incumbent president for another term.

(2) Incumbent nominees may be reelected by a yes/no ballot when such election is recommended by the District Council and approved by the district superintendent.

(3) The president shall be elected by a two-thirds favorable vote of the members present and voting for a term of service of one or two convention years or until the successor has been elected. The District NMI Council and the district superintendent shall recommend the length of the term of service.

b. Vice president shall be elected by ballot in one of the following ways:

(1) To the specific responsibility with two names submitted for the office; or

(2) To the Council as a whole with specific council positions to be determined by the Council; or

(3) A yes/no vote upon the recommendation of the nominating committee and approval of the district superintendent.

c. Secretary and treasurer shall be elected by ballot by:

(1) The District Convention. With the recommendation of the nominating committee and approval of the district superintendent, election may be by a yes/no ballot for one or two convention years; or

(2) The newly elected District Council upon the recommendation of the nominating committee and approval of the district superintendent. With the recommendation of the nominating committee and approval of the district superintendent, election may be by a yes/no ballot for one or two convention years.

(3) If a district has a unified treasurer who accounts for district funds, including NMI monies, that person shall be the NMI treasurer as an ex officio member of the District

NMI Council with all rights and duties, unless otherwise specified by the District Council.

d. Three council members, in addition to the officers, shall be elected by ballot for one or two convention years with responsibilities to be determined by the Council. The nominating committee and the district superintendent shall recommend the length of the term of service.

e. Additional council members, including NMI zone or area coordinators, may be:
   (1) Elected to specific responsibilities; or
   (2) Elected to the Council as a whole with responsibilities to be determined later by the Council; or
   (3) Appointed by the Executive Committee or District Council as determined by the Executive Committee.

   The term of service shall be one or two convention years. The nominating committee and district superintendent shall recommend the length of the term of service.

f. Youth representatives
   (1) The District Convention may elect by ballot one and not more than two youth members to the District Council; or
   (2) The newly elected District Council may elect one and not more than two youth members to the District Council.
   (3) Nominations may be requested from the District Nazarene Youth International Executive Committee.
   (4) Term of service shall be for one convention year.

g. The three Executive Committee members other than the officers shall be elected by ballot by the District Council for a term of service of one convention year or until their successors are elected.

3. Appointments: In consultation with the district superintendent, additional council members may be ap-

pointed by the Executive Committee or District Council as determined by the Executive Committee.

4. Vacancies
   a. President: The Executive Committee shall nominate two names. Election shall be by ballot with a majority vote of the District Council present and voting. The person elected shall serve until the adjournment of the next District Convention.
   b. Other council members: The Executive Committee or District Council shall fill any vacancy by appointment. The newly appointed council members shall serve until the adjournment of the next District Convention.
   c. Unified treasurer: If a district has a unified treasurer, that vacancy shall be filled by the District Advisory Board.

D. Duties of Council Members
1. President
   a. Directs the work of NMI on the district.
   b. Presides at all meetings of the District Council, Executive Committee, and the District Convention.
   c. Promotes, or delegates responsibility for, all emphases not assigned by election or council action.
   d. Prepares an annual budget for approval by the district finance committee.
   e. Submits annually a written report to the District NMI Convention and to the Global NMI Council regional representative.
   f. Serves as an ex officio member of the district committee referenced in *Manual* paragraph 207.
2. Vice President
   a. Performs all duties of the president when the president is absent.
   b. Serves in other areas as assigned by the District NMI Council.
3. Secretary
   a. Conducts the correspondence of the NMI and records the minutes of all business meetings.
   b. Sends report forms annually to local NMI presidents.

   c. Compiles statistical records and submits an annual report to the district president, global NMI director, Global Council representative, and where applicable the regional NMI coordinator for Global Mission regions.
4. Treasurer
   a. Keeps an accurate account of all funds collected and expended.
   b. Remits funds to designated treasurers in a timely manner.
   c. Furnishes regular itemized reports to the District Council and prepares an annual report for the District Convention.
   d. Arranges with appropriate district personnel the annual audit of the district NMI treasurer's books.
5. Executive Committee
   a. Appoints additional District Council members or fills vacancies on the Council.
   b. Transacts business between council meetings.
   c. Nominates two names for president if a vacancy occurs between annual conventions.
6. Other Council Members
   a. Promote the emphases and/or responsibility to which they are assigned (see *NMI Handbook*).

Section 3: Global Council

A. Purpose: The Global NMI Council shall promote the purpose of Nazarene Missions International.
B. Composition
   1. The Global NMI Council shall be composed of the director of Global Mission, the global NMI director, global NMI president, and one representative from each region in the Church of the Nazarene.
   2. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the director of Global Mission, the global NMI director, the global NMI president, the global NMI vice president, the global NMI secretary, and one other council member.
C. Nominations, Elections, and Vacancies
   1. Nomination and Election of Global Director

   a. The global director shall be nominated by the director of the Global Mission office in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction for the Global Mission office.
   b. The Global Council shall approve the nominated global director by a majority vote by ballot.
   c. The Global Mission Committee of the General Board shall approve the nomination by a majority vote by ballot and recommend the nominee to the Board of General Superintendents.
   d. The Board of General Superintendents shall elect the global director.
2. Nomination and Election of Global President
   a. A nominating committee composed of the global director, three regional representatives from the Global Council, and five non-Global Council members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. No two members of the nominating committee may be from the same region.
   b. The global director shall serve as chairman of the nominating committee.
   c. The committee shall submit the names of two and not more than three persons for global president. The nominees shall be approved by the Board of General Superintendents.
   d. From these nominees the Global Convention shall elect a global president by a two-thirds vote by ballot.
   e. The global president shall serve for a four-year term, from the close of the General Assembly until the close of the following General Assembly.
   f. The global president shall be limited to two full terms of service. A term of service shall be one quadrennium. If a person is elected to fill a vacancy in the office of global president, that person is also eligible to serve two full terms.
3. Nomination and Election of Global Council Members
   a. Each District NMI Council may submit one or two names to the Global NMI Office from its region as the regional representative for a nominating ballot.

(1) These persons shall be members and residents of the region they will represent, except in the case where the council member moves from that region within six months prior to the Global Convention.
(2) This provision does not apply to anyone whose home residence is just across a regional boundary from the place of church membership.

b. From these names on the nominating ballot, each region in caucus at the Global NMI Convention shall choose by ballot two nominees. The two with the highest number of votes shall be declared the nominees; however, the two nominees shall not be from the same district. If this happens, the person with the second highest number of votes is replaced by the person with the next highest number of votes from a different district.
c. The region in caucus shall then elect one person by a majority vote to represent the region on the Global Council.
d. Council members shall serve for a four-year term, from the close of the General Assembly until the close of the following General Assembly.
e. The term of service shall be limited to two full terms. A term of service shall be one quadrennium. If a person is elected to fill a vacancy of a Global Council member, that person is also eligible to serve two full terms.

4. Nomination and Election of Executive Committee
   a. The Global Council shall in its first meeting nominate and elect a vice president, a secretary and one additional member for the Executive Committee.
   b. Election shall be by ballot by a majority vote of those present and voting.
5. Nomination and Election of NMI Representative to General Board
   a. The Global Council shall nominate two members of the Council to represent NMI on the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene.

   b. The General Assembly shall elect the NMI representative by ballot.
6. Vacancies
   a. If a vacancy occurs in the office of global president between Global Conventions, a new global president shall be elected from nominees selected by the Executive Committee in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction by a two-thirds vote of the Global Council. The person will perform the duties of the global president until adjournment of the next General Assembly. The question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the Global Council in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction.
   b. If a vacancy occurs on the Council between Global Conventions, each District Executive Committee on the region concerned shall be requested to submit one nominee from the region to the Global Executive Committee. From these names, the Global Executive Committee shall present two names as nominees. The vacancy shall then be filled by a majority vote by the district NMI presidents on the region. The question of calling for an election to fill the vacancy shall be decided by the Global Council Executive Committee in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction.
   c. If a vacancy occurs in the office of global director, the same process will be followed for the nomination and election of the global director (see Article V. Section 3., C.1).
   d. If a vacancy occurs in the Executive Committee between Global Conventions, the Global Council shall nominate two people. The vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote by ballot of the Global NMI Council.
   e. If a vacancy occurs in the NMI representative to the General Board, the Global Executive Committee shall submit two nominees after consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction and the approval of the Board of General Superin-

tendents. The Global NMI Council shall elect the General Board representative by a majority vote.

D. Duties
   1. Global Council Members
      a. Cooperate with the global NMI director in developing NMI policy and program.
      b. Promote the total program of the NMI in the geographic region they represent.
      c. Submit a report of the NMI work in the region to each Global Council meeting.
      d. Nominate two members of the Council for election by the General Assembly as the NMI representative on the General Board.
      e. Act on any legislation passed by the General Assembly relevant to regional representation.
      f. Elect a vice president, a secretary, and another member from the Council to the Executive Committee.
   2. Global Director
      a. Serves as the executive officer of NMI.
      b. Advances the mission interests of NMI throughout the districts around the world in cooperation with the Global Council.
      c. Interprets the *NMI Handbook and Constitution*.
      d. Directs the personnel and business of the Global Office.
      e. Serves as editor-in-chief of all NMI publications.
      f. Directs the compilation and maintenance of records and reports.
      g. Makes an annual financial and statistical report to the Global Council, the Global Ministries Services Committee, and the General Board.
      h. Prepares a condensed report of business transacted in each meeting of the Council for approval by the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board.
      i. Directs the organization and program of the Global Convention in collaboration with the Global Council.
      j. Prepares the Global Convention report, both financial and statistical, with a condensed version through the Global Mission office for the General Assembly.

   k. Serves as an ex officio member of the General Assembly.
3. Global President
   a. Presides at the meetings of the Global Council, Executive Committee, and the Global Convention.
   b. Promotes the purpose and programs of NMI.
4. Vice President
   a. Performs the duties of the president when the president is absent.
5. Executive Committee
   a. Transacts business between council meetings.
   b. Nominates two names for global president if a vacancy occurs between Global Conventions.
   c. Nominates two names for a vacancy on the Executive Committee.
   d. Appoints the nominating committee for global president.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. Local Meetings

A. Monthly

There shall be one or more meetings for mission information, inspiration, and prayer held each calendar month.

1. Meetings may take the form of mission services, mission speakers, mission lessons, mission activities and events, mission moments, NMI emphases, etc.
2. The NMI president and the Council shall work in cooperation with the pastor in planning mission education and involvement for the local church.

B. Annual

1. The annual meeting shall be held no later than 30 days prior to the District Convention to elect the Executive Committee/Council for the next church year and the delegates to the District Convention.
2. Voting and election to the Local Council shall be limited to NMI members who are 15 years of age or older.

C. Council Meetings

The Local Council shall meet at least quarterly to plan,

report, evaluate, inform, inspire, and carry out the work of the local organization. A majority of council members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. District Meetings

A. Convention
   1. There shall be an annual District Convention to report, pray, inform, inspire, present plans, and conduct business pertaining to the organization.
   2. The time and place of the Convention shall be decided by the District Council in consultation with the district superintendent and shall be held within 30 days prior to the District Assembly.
   3. Membership
      a. Only members of the respective district shall be eligible to serve as ex officio or elected delegates.
      b. Ex officio members of the Convention shall be District NMI Council; district superintendent; all assigned ministers and full-time salaried associate ministers of local churches; lay members of the District Advisory Board; the local NMI presidents of the assembly year just ending, and newly elected NMI presidents or newly elected vice presidents if the newly elected president cannot attend; Global NMI Council member; retired assigned ministers; retired missionaries, missionaries on home assignment, and missionary appointees; and any former district presidents who reside on the district that they served.
      c. Elected delegates from each local church shall be NMI members (15 years of age or older). The number of elected delegates shall be based on the following formula: two delegates (excluding associate members) from each local NMI of 25 members or fewer, and one additional delegate for each additional 25 members or major portion thereof. Membership shall be based on the NMI membership reported at the local NMI annual meeting when elections take place. The local NMI nominating committee shall nominate delegates.

4. The delegates present shall constitute a quorum.

B. Council
The District Council shall meet at least biannually to transact business in the interim between the annual District Conventions. A majority of council members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Global Meetings

A. Convention
1. There shall be a Global Convention of Nazarene Missions International immediately preceding the General Assembly to report, pray, inform, inspire, present plans, and conduct business pertaining to the organization. A majority of registered delegates shall constitute a quorum.
2. The time and place of the convention shall be decided by the Global Council in consultation with the general superintendent in jurisdiction. The Global NMI Council shall approve official locations and shall ensure implementation of practical arrangements.
3. Membership
   a. Ex officio members of the Global Convention shall be members of the Global Council; regional NMI coordinators of Global Mission regions; district NMI presidents, or in the event a district president cannot attend, the district vice president may be allowed to represent that district; and the NMI president of each Phase 1 district, or if the president cannot attend, the president, with the approval of the district superintendent, may designate an alternate to be seated.
   b. Delegates and alternates to the Global Convention shall be elected by ballot at a District Convention. Alternates may be elected on a separate ballot or at the recommendation of the District Council on the same ballot as the delegates. Delegates and alternates may be elected by a plurality vote by ballot on approval by a two-thirds vote of the District Convention upon recommendation of the District Coun-

cil. (See Article VI, Section 3.A, 3.c. for determining the number of delegates and time of election).

c. Elected delegates to the Global Convention shall be based on the following formula: two delegates from each Phase 3 and Phase 2 district of 1,000 or fewer NMI members, excluding associates, and one additional delegate for each additional 700 members or major portion thereof. Membership shall be based on the NMI membership reported at the District Convention when elections take place. The district NMI nominating committee shall nominate delegates. (See *Manual* paragraph 200.2 for definition of district phases.)
d. One global missionary delegate for every Global Mission region of 50 or fewer missionaries, or two global missionary delegates for each region with 51 or more missionaries shall be nominated and elected from and by the assigned global missionaries serving in that region, by a method approved by the global NMI director's office.
e. Delegates are to be elected by ballot by the District Convention within 16 months of the Global Convention or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary.
f. Any elected delegate shall be residing at the time of the Global Convention on the district where he or she held membership at the time of election. If any elected delegate moves off the district, the privilege of representing the former district is forfeited. This provision does not apply to anyone whose home residence is just across a district boundary from the place of church membership.
g. In the event that elected delegates or duly elected alternate delegates are unable to attend the Global Convention and this fact is identified after the last District Convention before the Global Convention, then replacement alternate delegates may be appointed by the District NMI Council.

B. Council Meetings
   1. The Global Council newly elected at the Global Convention may meet before the adjournment of the General Assembly for the purpose of organization and planning.
   2. The Global Council shall meet a minimum of three times during the quadrennium to transact business pertaining to the organization. A majority of council members shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII. Funds

Section 1. Raised by Local Churches

A. World Evangelism Fund
   1. All funds raised for the World Evangelism Fund shall be sent to the general treasurer.
   2. World Evangelism Fund (WEF) shall be raised in the following manner:
      a. Regular WEF offerings
      b. Easter and Thanksgiving offerings
      c. The WEF portion of faith promise giving
      d. Prayer and Fasting offerings

B. Approved Mission Specials
   1. Opportunity shall be given to contribute to Approved Mission Specials over and above WEF giving.
   2. Additional Approved Mission Specials may be approved and authorized by appropriate personnel at Nazarene Global Ministry Center.
   3. The Global NMI Council shall authorize all Approved Mission Specials that are promoted and raised through NMI from the global level.

C. Funds Exclusive
   1. No part of the World Evangelism Fund and Approved Mission Specials shall be used for local or district expense or charitable purposes.

D. Local Expense
   1. A local expense fund shall be provided for NMI as determined by the Local NMI Council and approved by the Church Board.

2. A portion of the local expense shall be designated for the expenses of the District Convention delegates.

Section 2. Raised by the Districts

A. District Expense
   1. A district expense fund shall be provided for NMI as determined by the District NMI Council and approved by the District Finance Committee.
   2. A portion of the district expense fund shall be designated to pay for district delegate expenses to the Global Convention.
   3. World Evangelism Fund and Approved Mission Specials shall not be used for district expense.

Section 3. Remuneration

A. The ministry of NMI shall be a love service to the church. No salaries shall be paid at any level—local, district, and global—with the exception of the global director, who is employed by the General Board.

B. Adequate remuneration shall be provided for the expenses of council members at all levels—local, district, and global.

Article VIII. Policies and Procedures

The Global NMI Council shall establish additional policies, procedures, and job descriptions for NMI to be contained in the *NMI Handbook* along with the NMI Constitution.

Article IX. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised,* when not in conflict with applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Church of the Nazarene, the NMI Constitution, and any other rules of order that NMI may adopt, shall govern the organization.

Article X. Amendments

The NMI Constitution may be amended by two-thirds favorable vote of members present and voting at a Global Convention of Nazarene Missions International and by the approval of the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board.

CHAPTER III

812. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL BYLAWS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) is to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifetime of making Christlike disciples in the nations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International is fourfold:

A. To intentionally develop relationships with unreached people until they are Christlike disciples and making Christlike disciples.
B. To teach the Word of God until children, youth, and adults are saved, sanctified wholly, and maturing in Christian experience.
C. To help Christians grow spiritually involving them in evangelism, Christian education, and disciple making.
D. To encourage children, youth, and adults to enroll in Sunday School/Bible studies/small groups and faithfully attend.

ARTICLE I. SDMI MEMBERSHIP

Responsibility List

Each local church should assume responsibility for reaching all unsaved persons in the community. Any group meeting weekly for a least a half hour to study biblical principles and approved curriculum shall be included in the Responsibility List reporting of the *Discipleship Ministries List* for Sunday School/Extended Ministries Responsibilities/Discipleship/Bible Study for all age groups (Lines 20-23, Annual Pastor's Report, APR).

Each teacher/leader is expected to be responsible for the spiritual welfare of those on his or her Responsibility List.

SECTION 1. Participants in the following ministries shall be included on the Responsibility List according to the following guidelines:

a. Cradle Roll: Children under four years of age who, along with their parents, do not attend any SDMI ministry may be enrolled on the Responsibility List as Cradle Roll.
   1. The children are considered as prospects for the SDMI early childhood classes, and the parents as prospects in the corresponding adult ministries.
   2. The SDMI superintendent and the Children's Ministries International (CMI) Director, in consultation with the pastor, shall appoint a Cradle Roll director each church year who is responsible to visit and take program materials to these families.
   3. When they begin attending with some degree of regularity or reach age four, they should be transferred to the Responsibility List of the corresponding age-group class.

b. Home Department: any person physically or vocationally unable to attend a regular SDMI ministry may be enrolled in the Home Department and listed on the Responsibility List according to the following guidelines:
   1. The SDMI superintendent and Adult Ministries International (AMI) Director, in consultation with the pastor, shall appoint a Home Department supervisor each church year whose responsibility is to visit and teach the Bible lesson each week.
   2. Those persons visited weekly and taught the Bible lesson shall be listed on the Responsibility List (Lines 20-23, APR) and included in the weekly regular SDMI attendance Lines 24 and 24a, APR).

c. Nursing Home/Convalescent Center/Health Care Facility: Any resident confined to one of these centers who participates in a weekly study of approved curriculum sponsored by the local church may be listed on the Responsibility List (Lines 20-23, APR) and counted in the average weekly attendance (Lines 24 and 24a, APR).

d. Church-Type Mission: Any group sponsored by the local church or district who meets weekly for at least a half hour in another location to study approved Sunday School curriculum with the goal of becoming an organized Church of the Nazarene shall be added to the Responsibility List (Lines 20-23, APR) and average weekly regular Sunday School attendance (Lines 24 and 24a) of the sponsoring church by designating name/location of the new work.
   1. The attendance figures of any Church-Type Mission shall be listed with the regular monthly attendance report of the sponsoring church to the district and included in the monthly attendance total for the district.
   2. If a district or local church is promoting a group of church planting situations, these Church-Type Missions may be listed separately with their own name and location, if desired by the district.

e. Childcare/Schools: Any group of students in a Nazarene childcare/school (birth-secondary) under the sponsorship of the local church not currently enrolled in a Nazarene SDMI ministry who actively participate in a weekly study of approved curriculum for at least a half hour shall be included on the Responsibility List (Lines 20 and 23, APR), and counted in the average weekly attendance (Lines 24 and 24a).

SECTION 2. Removal of Names

Once a person is listed on the Responsibility List, the local church should actively seek to minister to that person until he or she is brought into the fellowship of that church. Removing names should be done only with the approval of the pastor when:

a. the enrollee moves out of town.
b. the enrollee joins another Sunday School and or church.
c. the enrollee specifically asks to have his or her name removed.
d. the enrollee dies.

ARTICLE II. SDMI ATTENDANCE

The purpose of counting SDMI attendance in the local church is to measure the effectiveness of that church's effort to make Christlike disciples. All SDMI efforts should lead every person to become a disciple of Christ, a member of the church, and a disciple maker.

Attendance counts for SDMI ministries occurring on weekdays should be counted in the following Sunday's attendance.

Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries attendance is divided into two categories: regular Sunday School Sessions (Line 24a, APR) and Discipleship Groups (Small/Cell Groups) (Line 24b, APR). These categories shall be counted each week by the local church according to the guidelines listed below and in Article I. Section 1 above.

The global Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International office needs monthly reports of the **Responsibility List** and average *weekly* **Discipleship Ministries** (Sunday School and Discipleship Groups—Small/Cell Groups) from each district in order to compile an accurate record of SDMI growth within the denomination each year (Lines 23 and 24, APR).

SECTION 1. Regular Sunday School Session. A regular Sunday School session shall be defined as an organized group of people who meet each week at a specified time and place. The purpose of this meeting is to make disciples through studying biblical principles, using Sunday School curriculum for at least a half hour. This will constitute the regular Sunday School weekly attendance (Line 24a APR).

a. Attendance counts shall be closed no later than the halfway point of the regular Sunday School session. This shall also apply to unified/combined services, those occasions when the regular Sunday School session does not meet due to a special worship service.
b. An enrollee in a local Sunday School shall be considered present in his or her local Sunday School when attending on that Sunday a local, zone, district, region, or general church-sponsored function such as a retreat,

assembly, camp meeting, etc., as long as he or she is not counted in another local Sunday School where he or she is attending. Such functions shall include at least a half hour of study of biblical principles.

c. All regular Sunday School sessions shall be used in determining the average attendance for the year and that attendance shall be reported monthly to the district. For most churches, the number of Sunday School sessions held will be 52. The District SDMI Board, in consultation with the district superintendent, shall determine any valid exceptions.

d. Attendance counts (Lines 20-24b, APR) from Home Department, Nursing Home/Convalescent Center/Health Care Facility, Church-Type Missions, Nazarene Childcare/Schools (birth-secondary), may be included in the average weekly regular Sunday School attendance according to the guidelines in Article I, Section 1

SECTION 2. Discipleship Groups (Small/Cell Groups). The attendance of all Discipleship Groups (Small/Cell Groups) (Line 24b, APR) shall be defined as persons involved in a study of biblical principles for at least a half hour, but not otherwise meeting the criteria of a regular Sunday School Session (see Article II, Section 1).

a. A local church having more than one type of discipleship ministry group should combine weekly attendance figures and report a single monthly average.

b. Since discipleship ministries can begin or end any time during the church year, the yearly average should be determined by dividing accumulative figures by the number of weeks the ministries were conducted.

ARTICLE III. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND DEPARTMENTS

SECTION 1. The Sunday School shall be divided into classes for children and youth on the basis of age or school grade. For adults the classes should be determined by common interests, mission, or topic.

SECTION 2. When the number of classes within the children's, youth, or adult age-groups increase, attention should

be given to departmentalization with a supervisor appointed by the SDMI Board.

SECTION 3. The duties of the department supervisor shall be to:

a. coordinate the work of the teachers/leaders within the department.
b. conduct departmental meetings when necessary.
c. insure that each teacher/leader within the department has the necessary approved curriculum, additional resources, and equipment available when needed.
d. be responsible for ordering all necessary curriculum and materials for the department.
e. work with the corresponding age-group director of the SDMI Board to promote Sunday School attendance and growth and implement any special campaigns.
f. present training needs of the department's teachers/leaders to the corresponding age-group director for presentation to the SDMI Board.
g. keep accurate responsibility lists and attendance records for the department and see that all absentees and prospects on the Responsibility List are contacted regularly.
h. work with the teachers/leaders in the department to see that the entire area is attractive and conducive to learning.
i. be responsible for the securing of substitute teachers/leaders within the department.

ARTICLE IV. SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUPS TEACHERS/LEADERS

SECTION 1. The department supervisors and teachers/leaders shall be appointed annually according to *Manual* 145.8.

SECTION 2. While the ideal is for each teacher/leader to serve for the entire year, in certain circumstances it may be advisable to appoint teachers/leaders for a shorter term.

SECTION 3. The SDMI Board shall have the right to declare the office of any officer or teacher/leader vacant in cases of proven unsound doctrine, imprudent conduct, or neglect of duty.

SECTION 4. All teachers/leaders and substitutes should:

a. attend workers' meetings regularly.
b. contact each person on the Responsibility List regularly.
c. avail themselves of all training opportunities provided.
d. provide fellowship opportunities for the class/group periodically.
e. be responsible for seeing that the teaching area is attractive and conducive to learning.
f. prepare an effective lesson each week.
g. be alert to opportunities for presenting the gospel with an invitation to receive Christ.

ARTICLE V. SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUPS LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1. The local SDMI superintendent shall be elected each year according to *Manual* 113.9-13.10 and 127. The duties of the SDMI superintendent shall be to:

a. superintend the SDMI under the direction of the pastor.
b. represent SDMI at the church board meeting.
c. plan regular meetings for teachers/leaders.
d. provide training opportunities for present and prospective teachers/leaders.
e. communicate the SDMI Responsibility List and attendance growth emphasis to all workers.
f. report the SDMI statistics to the designated zone, district, or field office monthly.
g. encourage attendance at zone, district, field, regional, and global SDMI functions.

SECTION 2. The duties of the age-group directors are outlined in *Manual* 147.1-147.9; 148.2.

SECTION 3. The SDMI Board shall elect a person to keep the SDMI records. He or she shall keep an accurate record, of the Responsibility List, attendance, visitors, and other statistics as may be required for all SDMI ministries.

SECTION 4. Where appropriate, the SDMI Board shall elect a treasurer to keep an accurate account of all moneys

raised by SDMI each week and authorize the disbursement according to the direction of the board. A monthly report shall be given to the SDMI superintendent.

SECTION 5. Where appropriate, the SDMI Board shall appoint a person to be responsible for ordering the SDMI curriculum and other resources requested by the age-group directors and/or department supervisors. The appointee shall distribute to the appropriate age-group director all information received from Nazarene Publishing House and prepare the order after approval of the superintendent and pastor.

ARTICLE VI. SDMI ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION

SECTION 1. The SDMI is under the care of the pastor, amenable to the local church board, under the general supervision of the SDMI Board and the immediate leadership of the superintendent and age-group directors.

SECTION 2. If a church who has employed a director of Christian education wishes to elect that person as SDMI superintendent, the procedure is as follows:

a. the local church nominating committee would recommend to the annual church meeting that no superintendent be elected for the coming church year, and the associate will serve as superintendent.
b. the congregation should affirm the decision by majority vote.
c. the associate will become the SDMI superintendent and will attend church board meetings to discuss Christian education interests but will not be a voting member, *Manual* 160.4.

The same procedure should be followed for employed associates who serve as the Children's Ministries International (CMI) or Adult Ministries International (AMI) directors.

It shall be understood that these are temporary arrangements, and that all possible effort should be made to train and resource local lay leaders for these positions as soon as possible.

SECTION 3. When a pastor to children, youth, or adults

is employed in a church, the pastor, in consultation with the church board, the SDMI Board, or NYI Council, assigns the responsibility for children, youth, and adults to the age-level pastors. In that case, the pastor to children, youth, or adults carries out some of the duties otherwise designated to a local CMI director, NYI president, or AMI director. However, the importance of the local CMI director, NYI president, or AMI director remains to provide vital lay leadership, support, and representation for local children's, youth, and adult ministries. The pastor, pastors to children, youth, and adults, and the SDMI Board or NYI Council work together to define the roles and responsibilities of the three positions and how they work together for the benefit of the church's age-related ministries.

ARTICLE VII. SDMI CONVENTIONS

SECTION 1. District Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International Convention. It is important that each district plan a District SDMI Convention annually in order to provide inspiration, motivation, and training for all SDMI workers. The promotion of Sunday School & Small Group Disciple making ministries should be a highlight of each convention.

a. Ex-officio members of the District SDMI Convention shall be: the district superintendent; all pastors, assigned ordained ministers, assigned district licensed ministers, retired assigned ministers, full-time associates; district SDMI chair, district directors of CMI and AMI, district NYI president; all local SDMI superintendents, local CMI and AMI directors, local NYI presidents; elected members of the District SDMI Board; lay members of the District Advisory Board; and any Nazarene full-time professors of Christian education with membership on that district.
b. In the annual church meeting, each local SDMI shall elect additional representatives to the Convention, equal to 25 percent of the officers and teachers/leaders of SDMI ministries.
c. The District SDMI Board shall serve as a nominating

committee to select twice the number of nominees to be elected by plurality vote. These nominees should be members of the Church of the Nazarene, actively involved in one of the ministries of SDMI, and should be selected from the various age-groups (children, youth, and adult teachers/workers). In case elected representatives cannot attend, alternate representatives shall be designated in the order of the votes received.

d. The representatives to the District SDMI Convention may elect the district SDMI chair and the elected members of the district SDMI Board according to *Manual* 238 and representatives to the Global SDMI Convention each quadrennium.

SECTION 2. Global Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International Convention. In connection with each General Assembly, SDMI shall observe a Global Convention. Elected delegates (and guests) shall meet for the purpose of inspiration, motivation, and training to equip and enrich involvement in fulfilling the mission and purpose of SDMI globally.

a. Ex-officio delegates to the Global SDMI Convention shall be: district superintendents, district SDMI chairs, district directors of CMI and AMI, professors of Christian education at Nazarene colleges, universities, and seminaries, SDMI regional coordinators, CMI and AMI regional coordinators, and directors and staff of the global SDMI office.
b. Each district should elect four additional delegates which is the number equal to the district ex-officio members or a number up to ten percent of the organized churches on the district.
c. The following guidelines should be adhered to in elections for the Global SDMI Convention delegates:
    1. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the district superintendent, district SDMI chair, and at least three others appointed by the District SDMI Board. They shall select three times the number of nominees to be elected.
    2. The District SDMI Convention shall elect an equal

number of delegates and alternates from all SDMI ministries (including youth SDMI teachers/workers). Those elected should be persons who are presently and actively involved in the respective area to which they are elected. The number of alternates elected should include alternates for ex-officio members. Persons should not be elected who will serve as delegates to the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention or the Global Nazarene Youth International Convention, because the three conventions run concurrently.

3. Delegates shall be elected by ballot in the District SDMI Convention within 16 months of the meeting of the General Assembly or within 24 months in areas where travel visas or other unusual preparations are necessary.
4. As nearly as possible, elect an equal number of laity and clergy—50 percent laypersons and 50 percent full-time active ministers, elders, or licensed ministers. When the total number is uneven, the extra representative shall be a layperson.
5. Incumbent district SDMI leaders newly elected prior to and holding office at the time of the Global Convention shall be the ex-officio members of the convention.
6. All elected and ex-officio delegates present in the District SDMI Convention shall be eligible to vote for Global SDMI Convention representatives.
7. A plurality vote shall be sufficient for election.
8. In case elected delegates cannot attend, alternate delegates shall be designated in the order of the votes they received.
9. At the convening of the Global SDMI Convention, each delegate shall reside on and be a member of a Church of the Nazarene on the district he or she was elected to represent. (This is not intended to apply to those living near district boundaries where home residence may be across the district line from the place of regular church participation.)

10. If a district cannot finance the full number of delegates to the Global SDMI Convention as recommended, the District SDMI Board may elect as many persons as the district can afford to send.
11. Delegates who attend the convention should have financial assistance from the district comparable to expenses provided from the district for Nazarene Youth International and Nazarene Missions International Convention delegates.
12. If election of delegates for the Global SDMI Convention does not take place at the District SDMI Convention, delegates shall be elected at the District Assembly.

ARTICLE VIII. SDMI AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the General Board members present and voting.

PART IX

Forms

The Local Church

The District Assembly

Bills of Charges

CHAPTER I

813. THE LOCAL CHURCH

813.1. Local Minister's License

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that ___________________________ is licensed as a Local Minister in the Church of the Nazarene for one year, provided that __________ spirit and practice are such as become the gospel of Christ, and ___________________ teachings correspond with the established doctrines of the Holy Scriptures as held by said church.

By Order of the Church Board of the __________________ Church of the Nazarene.

Done at _______________________, this __________ day of ________________________,_______(year).

____
Chairman

____
Secretary

NOTE: Available online from the Church of the Nazarene Global Ministry Center through the Clergy Development office. Obtaining the correct form is important for establishing and maintaining the candidate's history of ministry.

813.2 Recommendation to the District Assembly*

(to be completed annually for district licensed ministers)

(Check the appropriate board.)

☐ The Church Board of the ___________________________

☐ The District Advisory Board of the (*Manual* 222.10) _____ recommends ____ to the (Ministerial Credentials Board) District Assembly for:

☐ **District Minister's License**

☐ **Renewal of District Minister's License**

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*This form may be used for different recommendations. Please mark the applicable title for such, as well as designate the ministry role certification.

☐ **Renewal of Deaconess' License**
☐ **Renewal of Director of Christian Education License**

<u>**Ministry Role Certification**</u> (*Manual* 402-425)

☐ **CED—Christian Education Minister (ministers employed by a local church school)**
☐ **EDU—Education** (employed to serve on the administrative staff or faculty of one of the educational institutions of the Church of the Nazarene)
☐ **EVR—Evangelist, Registered** (is devoted to traveling and preaching the gospel as his or her primary ministry, promoting revivals and spreading the gospel abroad in the land)
☐ **MIS—Missionary** (appointed by the General Board to minister for the church through the Global Mission Committee)
☐ **PAS—Pastor**
☐ **PSV-FT or PSV-PT—Pastoral Service Full-time or Part-time** (associate pastor, performing pastoral service in connection with a church, in specialized areas of ministry recognized and approved by the appropriate governing, licensing and endorsing agencies)
☐ **SER—Song Evangelist, Registered** (devotes the major portion of his or her time to the ministry of evangelism through music as his or her primary assignment)
☐ **SPC—Special Service/Interdenominational** (in active service in a manner not otherwise provided for, which must be approved by the district assembly upon recommendation by the District Advisory Board and/or the Ministerial Credentials Board)
☐ **STU—Student**
☐ **U—Unassigned**

Review the minimal requirements for ordination (*Manual* 430.3, 431.3) and also the procedures for formalization of relationship, either paid or unpaid. (*Manual* 160-60.3) This is important for establishing and maintaining the candidate's history of ministry.

If a designation other than "STU" or "U" is indicated above, describe the formal relationship that exists with the candidate, as approved by the church board and the district superintendent.____

____

____

We certify that ___________________________________ has fulfilled all the requirements for such a request.

By vote of the Board this _________ (date), and by receipt of a letter of permission from the district superintendent this _________ (date).

____
Chairperson

____
Secretary

Referred _______ Reported _______ Disposition _______

813.3. Certificate of Commendation

This certifies that ______________________________ is a member of the Church of the Nazarene at ______________ and is hereby commended to the Christian confidence of those to whom this certificate may be presented.

____
Pastor

Date _____________________________, ________(year)

NOTE: When a certificate of commendation is given, that person's membership immediately ceases in the local church issuing the certificate. (111.1)

813.4. Letter of Release

This certifies that __________________________________ has been until this date a member of the Church of the Nazarene at ____________________________________ and, at h_______ request, is granted this letter of release.

____
Pastor

Date _____________________________, ________(year)

NOTE: Membership terminates immediately upon issuance of a letter of release. (112.2)

813.5. Transfer of Members

This certifies that ____________________________ is a member in the Church of the Nazarene at __________________ and, at h________ request, is hereby transferred to the Church of the Nazarene at ______________________ in the ___________________ District.

When the reception of this transfer is acknowledged by the receiving local church, membership in this local church will cease.

____

Pastor

____

Address

Date ______________________________

NOTE: A transfer is valid for three months only. (111)

813.6. Transfer Acknowledged

This certifies that ________________________________ has been received into membership by the Church of the Nazarene at ____________________________________ this ________ day of _______________________________, ________(year).

____

Pastor

____

Address

NOTE: Forms 813.3, 813.4, 813.5, and 813.6 may simply be prepared on local church stationery as needed.

CHAPTER II

814. THE DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Official district forms may be secured from the General Secretary, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220, U.S.A.

CHAPTER III

815. BILLS OF CHARGES

Section 1. In Trial of a Church Member

Section 2. In Trial of an Ordained Minister

Section 3. In Trial of a Licensed Minister

Bills of Charges may be secured from the General Secretary, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220, U.S.A.

PART X

Appendix

GENERAL OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS, COUNCILS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

CURRENT MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

CHAPTER I

900. GENERAL OFFICERS

900.1. General Superintendents

Jerry D. Porter
Jesse C. Middendorf
J. K. Warrick
Eugenio R. Duarte
David W. Graves
Stan A. Toler

General Superintendents Emeriti and Retired

William M. Greathouse, Emeritus
Eugene L. Stowe, Emeritus
Jerald D. Johnson, Emeritus
Donald D. Owens, Emeritus
William J. Prince, Emeritus
Jim L. Bond, Emeritus
W. Talmadge Johnson, Emeritus
James H. Diehl, Emeritus
Paul G. Cunningham, Emeritus
Nina G. Gunter, Emerita

900.2. General Secretary

David P. Wilson

900.3. General Treasurer

Marilyn J. McCool

Church of the Nazarene
Global Ministry Center
17001 Prairie Star Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66220, U.S.A.

CHAPTER II

901. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARDS, COUNCILS, AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

901.1. General Board

MEMBERS BY CHURCH REGIONS

Minister	**Layperson**
Africa Region	
Emanuel David Simas Araujo	Ronald Khumalo
Dance G. Mathebula	Rose Hlanlissele Mahlalela
Arlindo Diamante Mondlane	John M. Ngombe
Asia-Pacific Region	
Yong-Hwa Im	Shionel Blas A. Gesite
Canada Region	
D. Ian Fitzpatrick	Hugh Hawthorne
Caribbean Region	
Olga Y. Robles Montanez	Rebeca Alvarado-Ortiz
Walliere Pierre	Carmen Luisa Checo de Acosta
Central U.S.A. Region	
David G. Roland	John Q. Dickey Sr.
East Central U.S.A. Region	
David E. Downs	Daniel J. Martin
Eastern U.S.A. Region	
Kerry W. Willis	Jan G. Lanham
Eurasia Region	
Sukamal Biswas	Robert Kegel
Hans-Gunter Mohn	Paul D. Tarrant
Mexico and Central America Region	
Ely Camas Perez	Elimelec Juanta Castro
Samuel Cadena Meza	Felipe Luis Morales

North Central U.S.A. Region

James M. Kraemer
Larry McIntire

Northwest U.S.A. Region

Randall J. Craker
Joel K. Pearsall

South America Region

Jesus Bernat Pintos
Gerson Rueda
Amadeu Aparecido Teixeira
Jose Roberto Santos

South Central U.S.A. Region

David A. Busic
Keith A. Pardue

Southeast U.S.A. Region

Larry D. Dennis
Charles A. Davis Jr.
Dwight M. Gunter II
Dennis L. Moore

Southwest U.S.A. Region

John H. Calhoun
Daniel W. Spaite

Education

Dan L. Boone
Bob Brower

Nazarene Missions International

Jennifer E. Brown

Nazarene Youth International

Mark E. Holcomb

901.2. General Court of Appeals

Mary R. Paul, *Chairperson*
John H. Calhoun, *Secretary*
Dan L. Boone
Duane E. Srader
Ted R. Lee

901.3. Councils of Nazarene Youth International

Global NYI Council

Gary Hartke, Nazarene Youth International Director
Mark Holcomb, *President* (Central U.S.A.)
David Gonzalez, *Vice President* (Mexico and Central America)
Kenneth Phiri, Africa (Regional President)
Acy Lodja, Asia-Pacific (Regional President)

Rudolph Prescod, Caribbean (Regional President)
Milton Madhu, Eurasia (Regional President)
Ana Celia Martinez, Mexico and Central America (Regional President)
Jean David Larochelle, South America (Regional President)
Charles Brodhead, U.S.A./Canada (Regional Representative)
Danny Dyer, U.S.A./Canada (Regional Representative)
Brian Woolery, Asia-Pacific (Regional Coordinator)
Monte Cyr, Caribbean (Regional Coordinator)
Sabine Wielk, Eurasia (Regional Coordinator)
Benjamin Soria, Mexico and Central America (Regional Coordinator)
Zeida Lynch, South America (Regional Coordinator)
Erika Diones, Early Youth Member-at-large
Jennifer Rae, Senior Youth Member-at-large
Young-Min Park, Young Adult Member-at-large

U.S.A./Canada NYI Council

Gary Hartke, Nazarene Youth International Director
Danny Dyer, *President* (South Central U.S.A.)
Charles Brodhead, *Vice President* (Southwest U.S.A.)
Roger Bonzo, *Secretary* (East Central U.S.A.)
Rob Snow, Canada
Dwayne Mills, Central U.S.A.
Bob Keuther, Eastern U.S.A.
Fred Toomey, North Central U.S.A.
Richard Vasquez, Northwest U.S.A.
Greg Wells, Southeast U.S.A.
Kara Evans, Early Youth Member-at-large
Jonathan Elliot, Senior Youth Member-at-large
Young-Min Park, Young Adult Member-at-large
Mike Kipp, Big Picture Training Coordinator
Bill Horning, Quizzing Coordinator

The Assigned General Superintendent in Jurisdiction (Adviser)

901.4. Global Council of Nazarene Missions International

Dr. Daniel D. Ketchum, *Global Director*
Rev. Jennifer Brown, *President*
Rev. Ezekiel Mnisi, Africa Region
Mrs. Kim Ran, Asia-Pacific Region
Rev. Tonya Kucey, Canada Region
Mrs. Donnamie Ali, Caribbean Region
Mrs. Martha Bean, Central U.S.A. Region
Mrs. Lola Brickey, East Central U.S.A. Region
Rev. Sandra Sisler, Eastern U.S.A. Region
Mr. Rob Kegel, Eurasia Region
Mr. Cesar Oswaldo Alonzo, Mexico and Central America Region
Rev. Eunice Brubaker, North Central U.S.A. Region
Mrs. Carolita Fraley, Northwest U.S.A. Region
Dr. Haroldo Millet Neves, South America Region
Mrs. Cheryl Adams, South Central U.S.A. Region
Mrs. Tawanda Mills, Southeast U.S.A. Region
Mr. Gerald Myers, Southwest U.S.A. Region
Dr. Louie E. Bustle, Global Mission Office Director

The Assigned General Superintendent in Jurisdiction (Adviser)

901.5. Nazarene Institutions of Higher Education

INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

Africa Region

Africa Nazarene University
Nairobi, Kenya
Nazarene Bible College, East Africa
Nairobi, Kenya
Nazarene College of Education
Manzini, Swaziland
Nazarene College of Nursing
Manzini, Swaziland
Nazarene College of Theology
Siteki, Swaziland

Nazarene Theological College
Honeydew, Republic of South Africa
Nazarene Theological College of Central Africa
Lilongwe, Malawi, Central Africa
Nazarene Theological Institute, ITN/NTI
Cotonou, Republic Du Benin
Seminário Nazareno em Cabo Verde
Cape Verde
Seminário Nazareno em Mozambique
Maputo, Mozambique

Asia-Pacific Region

Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary
Manila, Philippines
Indonesia Nazarene Theological College
Yogyakarta, Indonesia
Japan Nazarene Theological Seminary
Tokyo, Japan
Korea Nazarene University
Cheonan City, Choong Nam, Korea
Luzon Nazarene Bible College
Baguio City, Philippines
Melanesia Nazarene Bible College
Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea
Nazarene College of Nursing
Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea
Nazarene Theological College
Thornlands, Queensland, Australia
South Pacific Nazarene Theological College
Suva, Fiji Islands
Southeast Asia Nazarene Bible College
Mae Taeng, Chiang Mai, Thailand
Taiwan Nazarene Theological College
Peitou, Taiwan
Visayan Nazarene Bible College
Cebu City, Philippines

Caribbean Region

Caribbean Nazarene College
Santa Cruz, Trinidad

Séminaire Théologique Nazaréen D'Haiti
Petion-Ville, Haiti
Seminario Nazareno Dominicano
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Seminario Teológico Nazareno Cubano
Ciudad Habana, Cuba

Eurasia Region

Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Bible College
Eastern Mediterranean Field
European Nazarene College
Busingen, Switzerland
Nazarene Nurses Training College
Washim, Maharashtra, India
Nazarene Theological College-Manchester
Manchester, England
South Asia Nazarene Bible College
Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Mexico and Central America Region

Instituto Biblico Nazareno
Coban, Guatemala
Seminario Nazareno de las Américas
San Jose, Costa Rica
Seminario Nazareno Mexicano, A.C.
Mexico City D.F., Mexico
Seminario Teológico Nazareno de Guatemala
Guatemala City, Guatemala

South America Region

Brazil Nazarene College
Campinas, Brazil
Instituto Biblico Nazareno
Bagua Chica, Amazonas, Peru
Seminario Biblico Nazareno
Santiago, Chile
Seminario Nazareno del Área Central
LaPaz, Bolivia
Seminário Teológico do Brasil
Campinas, Brazil

Seminario Teológico Nazareno
Chiclayo, Peru
Seminario Teológico Nazareno Del Cono Sur
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Seminario Teológico Nazareno Sudamericano
Quito, Ecuador

U.S.A./Canada Council of Education

Ambrose University College
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Eastern Nazarene College
Quincy, Massachusetts, U.S.A.
MidAmerica Nazarene University
Olathe, Kansas, U.S.A.
Mount Vernon Nazarene University
Mount Vernon, Ohio, U.S.A.
Nazarene Bible College
Colorado Springs, Colorado, U.S.A.
Nazarene Theological Seminary
Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A.
Northwest Nazarene University
Nampa, Idaho, U.S.A.
Olivet Nazarene University
Bourbonnais, Illinois, U.S.A.
Point Loma Nazarene University
San Diego, California, U.S.A.
Southern Nazarene University
Bethany, Oklahoma, U.S.A.
Trevecca Nazarene University
Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.

CHAPTER III

902. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

902.1. Annuities

The General Board and institutions of the church are prohibited from using annuity gifts until such have become their valid property by the death of the annuitant. Such gifts are to be carefully invested in funds usually accepted as trust funds by the courts of the land. (2005)

902.2. Debt

No institution may incur any debt on the strength of pledges. Pledges are not to be counted as assets. (2005)

902.3. Bible Societies

(1) *Approved Bible Societies*

The Church of the Nazarene places special emphasis upon the Bible as the written revelation of God, and we believe that it is the primary agency to win new followers to Jesus Christ, and because there is an increasing need for more copies of the Scripture; therefore be it *Resolved*,

First, That the General Assembly express its hearty approval of and sympathy with the work of the United Bible Societies around the world.

Second, That we endorse the observance of Universal Bible Sunday, directing attention on this day to the essential place the Scriptures should occupy in the lives of Christian people.

(2) *Offering for Bible Societies*

Resolved, That the Church of the Nazarene designate the second Sunday of December of each year as a special time for the presentation of this important matter and the taking of an offering for each nation's Bible Society. The Bible Soci-

ety chosen shall be members (associate or full), of the worldwide fellowship of the United Bible Societies or in the absence of a member society, such other Bible Society designated by the district; also that a special effort be made to have all of our churches take part in such an offering. (2009)

NOTE: It is understood that our churches in Scotland send their contributions to the National Bible Society in Scotland; the churches in England, to the British and Foreign Bible Society; and the churches in Canada, to the Canadian Bible Society, etc. The churches of the United States shall forward contributions to the Global Ministry Center, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220, USA.

902.4. *Manual* Editing Resolution

Be it *Resolved,* That the members of the *Manual* Editing Committee appointed by the Board of General Superintendents be and they are hereby constituted the *Manual* Editing Committee; and be it further

Resolved, That the *Manual* Editing Committee be and they are hereby authorized to harmonize conflicting statements that may appear in the record of the actions of the Twenty-seventh General Assembly in regard to changes in the *Manual;* and also to make such editorial changes in the text of the present *Manual* as will correct the language without altering the meaning; also to make such editorial changes in the copy of the newly adopted matter as may serve to correct the language without altering the meaning.

The *Manual* Editing Committee is hereby further authorized to substitute plainly understood words or expressions for confusing words or expressions, to revise the numbering of chapters, paragraphs, sections, and other divisions of the *Manual* in harmony with any actions adopted by the Twenty-seventh General Assembly, and also to prepare the index in harmony with any actions adopted by the Twenty-seventh General Assembly.

Further resolved that the supervision of all translations of the *Manual* shall be a duty of the *Manual* Editing Committee. (2009)

902.5. *Manual* Appendix Review

Any item remaining in Chapters III and IV of the Appendix (paragraphs 902-903) for three quadrennia without reconsideration shall be referred by the Committee on Reference to the proper committee of the General Assembly for the same consideration as a resolution to the General Assembly. (2001)

902.6. Tenure of Committees

Any special committee created for any purpose, unless specified otherwise, will cease to exist at the following General Assembly. (2005)

902.7. General Assembly Business

(From the 2009 *Delegate's Handbook*)

RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS

Rule 26. Presentation. District assemblies, a committee authorized by the district assembly, regional councils, the General Board or any of its recognized departments, official boards or commissions of the general church, the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention, the Global Nazarene Youth International Convention, or five or more members of the General Assembly, may present resolutions and petitions for the consideration of the General Assembly in accordance with the following rules:

a. Resolutions and petitions shall be printed or typewritten on the official form furnished by the general secretary.

b. Each resolution or petition presented will include the subject and the name of the delegates or group making the presentation.

c. All resolutions that call for action that requires expenditures must include an estimated cost to complete the action.

d. Proposals for changes in the church *Manual* must be presented in writing and shall give paragraph and section of *Manual* to be affected and the text of the change, should it be adopted.

e. They shall be presented to the general secretary **no later than December 1** prior to the convening of the assembly to be numbered and sent to the Reference Committee for reference in accordance with Rule 38 and *Manual* 305.1, and in order that they may be printed in the *Delegate's Handbook*.

Rule 27. Resolutions and Petitions for Late Reference. With the consent of the assembly, resolutions, petitions, and other items for consideration by the assembly may be presented to the general secretary for reference to a legislative committee no later than **June 1** prior to the convening of the assembly, with the exception of the global conventions which meet just prior to the General Assembly.

Rule 28. *Manual* Changes. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the *Manual* Editing Committee to be harmonized with other *Manual* provisions.

902.8. Restrictions on Membership— General Church Boards

No person shall serve on more than one of the following boards: General Board, Nazarene Theological Seminary (U.S.A.) Trustees, Nazarene Bible College (U.S.A.) Trustees. (2001)

902.9. Historic Sites and Landmarks

District and regional assemblies may designate places of historic significance within their boundaries as Historic Sites. At least fifty years must elapse after a place achieves historic significance before it is recognized as a Historic Site. A Historic Site does not have to have original buildings or structures surviving in order to be designated. The assembly secretary shall report newly designated Historic Sites to the general secretary, reporting the action taken, information on the site, and the site's significance.

District and regional assemblies can ask the General Assembly to designate places of denomination-wide significance as Historic Landmarks. Nominations are restricted to previously designated Historic Sites. The general superintendents or a committee appointed for the purpose of

screening nominations must concur with a nomination before it receives General Assembly consideration.

The general secretary shall keep a register of Historic Sites and Landmarks and publicize them appropriately (paragraph 327.2). (2009)

CHAPTER IV

903. CURRENT MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

903.1. Organ Donation

The Church of the Nazarene encourages its members who do not object personally to support donor/recipient anatomical organs through living wills and trusts.

Further, we appeal for a morally and ethically fair distribution of organs to those qualified to receive them. (2001)

903.2. Discrimination

The Church of the Nazarene reiterates its historic position of Christian compassion for people of all races. We believe that God is the Creator of all people, and that of one blood are all people created.

We believe that each individual, regardless of race, color, gender, or creed, should have equality before law, including the right to vote, equal access to educational opportunities, to all public facilities, and to the equal opportunity, according to one's ability, to earn a living free from any job or economic discrimination.

We urge our churches everywhere to continue and strengthen programs of education to promote racial understanding and harmony. We also feel that the scriptural admonition of Hebrews 12:14 should guide the actions of our people. We urge that each member of the Church of the Nazarene humbly examine his or her personal attitudes and actions toward others, as a first step in achieving the Christian goal of full participation by all in the life of the church and the entire community.

We reemphasize our belief that holiness of heart and life is the basis for right living. We believe that Christian charity between racial groups or gender will come when the hearts of people have been changed by complete submission to Jesus Christ, and that the essence of true Christianity consists in loving God with one's heart, soul, mind, and strength, and one's neighbor as oneself. (2005)

903.3. Abuse of the Unempowered

The Church of the Nazarene abhors abuse of any person of any age or sex and calls for increased public awareness through its publications and by providing appropriate educational information.

The Church of the Nazarene reaffirms its historical policy that all those who act under the authority of the Church are prohibited from sexual misconduct and other forms of abuse of the unempowered. When placing people in positions of trust or authority, the Church of the Nazarene will presume that past conduct is usually a reliable indicator of likely future behavior. The Church will withhold positions of authority from people who have previously used a position of trust or authority to engage in sexual misconduct or abuse of the unempowered, unless appropriate steps are taken to prevent future wrongful behavior. Expressions of remorse by a guilty person shall not be considered sufficient to overcome the presumption that future wrongful conduct is likely, unless the expressions of remorse are accompanied by an observable change of conduct for a sufficient length of time, to indicate that a repeat of the wrongful misconduct is unlikely. (2009)

903.4. Responsibility to the Poor

The Church of the Nazarene believes that Jesus commanded His disciples to have a special relationship to the poor of this world; that Christ's Church ought, first, to keep itself simple and free from an emphasis on wealth and extravagance and, second, to give itself to the care, feeding, clothing, and shelter of the poor. Throughout the Bible and in the life and example of Jesus, God identifies with and assists the poor, the oppressed, and those in society who cannot speak for themselves. In the same way, we, too, are called to identify with and to enter into solidarity with the poor and not simply to offer charity from positions of comfort. We hold that compassionate ministry to the poor includes acts of charity as well as a struggle to provide opportunity, equality, and justice for the poor. We further believe

that the Christian responsibility to the poor is an essential aspect of the life of every believer who seeks a faith that works through love.

Finally, we understand Christian holiness to be inseparable from ministry to the poor in that it drives the Christian beyond his or her own individual perfection and toward the creation of a more just and equitable society and world. Holiness, far from distancing believers from the desperate economic needs of people in our world, motivates us to place our means in the service of alleviating such need and to adjust our wants in accordance with the needs of others. (2001)

(Exodus 23:11; Deuteronomy 15:7; Psalms 41:1; 82:3; Proverbs 19:17; 21:13; 22:9; Jeremiah 22:16; Matthew 19:21; Luke 12:33; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 9:6; Galatians 2:10)

903.5. Women in Ministry

The Church of the Nazarene supports the right of women to use their God-given spiritual gifts within the church, affirms the historic right of women to be elected and appointed to places of leadership within the Church of the Nazarene, including the offices of both elder and deacon.

The purpose of Christ's redemptive work is to set God's creation free from the curse of the Fall. Those who are "in Christ" are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). In this redemptive community, no human being is to be regarded as inferior on the basis of social status, race, or gender (Galatians 3:26-28).

Acknowledging the apparent paradox created by Paul's instruction to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:11-12) and to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 14:33-34), we believe interpreting these passages as limiting the role of women in ministry presents serious conflicts with specific passages of scripture that commend female participation in spiritual leadership roles (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18; 21:8-9; Romans 16:1, 3, 7; Philippians 4:2-3), and violates the spirit and practice of the Wesleyan-holiness tradition. Finally, it is incompatible with the character of God presented throughout Scripture, especially as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. (2001)

903.6. Gender Inclusive Language

The Church of the Nazarene affirms and encourages the use of gender inclusive language in reference to persons. Publications, including the *Manual* and public language should reflect this commitment to gender equality as expressed in paragraph 903.5. Language changes shall not be applied to any scriptural quotations or references to God. (2009)

903.7. The Church and Human Freedom

Concerned that our great Christian heritage be understood and safeguarded, we remind our people that both political and religious freedom rest upon biblical concepts of the dignity of humankind as God's creation and the sanctity of one's own individual conscience. We encourage our people to participate in appropriate activity in support of these biblical concepts and to be ever vigilant against threats to this precious freedom.

These freedoms are constantly in danger, therefore we urge election of persons to public office at all levels of government who believe in these principles and who are answerable only to God and the constituency that elected them when carrying out a public trust. Further, we resist any invasion of these principles by religious groups seeking special favors.

We believe that the role of the Church is to be prophetic and constantly to remind the people that "righteousness exalts a nation" (Proverbs 14:34). (2005)

903.8. War and Military Service

The Church of the Nazarene believes that the ideal world condition is that of peace and that it is the full obligation of the Christian Church to use its influence to seek such means as will enable the nations of the earth to be at peace and to devote all of its agencies for the propagation of the message of peace. However, we realize that we are living in a world where evil forces and philosophies are actively in conflict with these Christian ideals and that there may arise such international emergencies as will require a nation to

resort to war in defense of its ideals, its freedom, and its existence.

While thus committed to the cause of peace, the Church of the Nazarene recognizes that the supreme allegiance of the Christian is due to God, and therefore it does not endeavor to bind the conscience of its members relative to participation in military service in case of war, although it does believe that the individual Christian as a citizen is bound to give service to his or her own nation in all ways that are compatible with the Christian faith and the Christian way of life.

We also recognize that, as an outgrowth of the Christian teaching and of the Christian desire for peace on earth, there are among our membership individuals who have conscientious objection to certain forms of military service. Therefore the Church of the Nazarene claims for conscientious objectors within its membership the same exemptions and considerations regarding military service as are accorded members of recognized noncombatant religious organizations.

The Church of the Nazarene, through its general secretary, shall set up a register whereon those persons who supply evidence of being members of the Church of the Nazarene may record their convictions as conscientious objectors. (2005)

903.9. Creation

The Church of the Nazarene believes in the biblical account of creation ("In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth . . ."—Genesis 1:1). We oppose any godless interpretation of the origin of the universe and of humankind (Hebrews 11:3). (1, 5.1, 7) (2009)

903.10. Creation Care

With deep appreciation of God's creation we believe we are to strive to exhibit the stewardship qualities that help preserve His work. Recognizing we have been given a stake in sustaining the integrity of our surroundings, we accept the individual and collective responsibilities of doing so. (2009)

(Genesis 2:15, Psalms 8:3-9; 19:1-4; 148)

903.11. Evidence of Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The Church of the Nazarene believes that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth and to the subsequent work of heart cleansing, or entire sanctification, through the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

We affirm that the one biblical evidence of entire sanctification, or the infilling of the Holy Spirit, is the cleansing of the heart by faith from original sin as stated in Acts 15:8-9: "God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith." And this cleansing is manifested by the fruit of the Spirit in a holy life. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:22-24).

To affirm that even a special or any alleged physical evidence, or "prayer language," is evidence of the baptism with the Spirit is contrary to the biblical and historic position of the Church. (2009)

903.12. Pornography

Pornography is an evil that is undermining the morals of society. Printed and visual materials that degrade the dignity of humankind and are contrary to the scriptural view of the sanctity of marriage and the wholesomeness of sex are to be abhorred.

We believe that we are created in the image of God and that pornography degrades, exploits, and abuses men, women, and children. The pornography industry is motivated by greed, is the enemy of family life, has led to crimes of violence, poisons minds, and defiles the body.

To honor God as Creator and Redeemer, we urge active opposition to pornography by every legitimate means and the making of positive efforts to reach for Christ those who are involved in this evil. (2009)

903.13. Christian Modesty of Dress

Recognizing the increasing trend toward immodesty of dress in public places, we remind our people of the Christian concept of modesty as an expression of holiness and urge that Christian modesty be exercised at all times in public. (2005)

903.14. Wellness

The scripture calls all believers to balance, health, and wholeness through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Gluttony is the practice of consuming to the detriment of body, community, and spiritual life. While obesity may arise due to genetics, cultural constraints, or physical limitations, gluttony, on the other hand, reflects a way of life that consumes God's good creation: food, resources and relationships that harm both persons and community. The practice of Christian stewardship calls us to seek to maintain the health and fitness of our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit and to live temperate lives with all the resources and relationships God provides. (2009)

(Proverbs 23:19-21; Matthew 11:19; 23:25; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Galatians 5:23; Philippians 3:19; Titus 1:8; 2:12; Hebrews 12:16; 2 Peter 1:6)

903.15. Substance Abuse

The Church of the Nazarene continues to strongly object to substance abuse as a social malignancy. We encourage church members to take an active and highly visible role and to participate in education relative to substance abuse and the incompatibility of such use with a Christian experience and a holy life. (2001)

903.16. Alcohol Desocialization

The Church of the Nazarene publicly supports the desocialization of alcohol consumption. We encourage civic, labor, business, professional, social, voluntary, and private agencies and organizations to assist in such desocialization to counteract the advertising and media promotion of the social acceptability of the "alcohol culture." (2001)

903.17. Tobacco Use and Advertising

The Church of the Nazarene urges its people to continue to speak out against the use of tobacco, both as a health hazard and a social evil. Our historic stand is based on God's Word, where we are admonished to maintain our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20).

Our stand opposing the use of tobacco in all its forms is strongly supported by medical evidence, documented by numerous social, governmental, and health agencies around the world. They have demonstrated that it is a major health hazard, and have shown conclusively that its use may produce changes in normal bodily physiology, both serious and permanent.

We recognize that our young people are greatly influenced by the millions of dollars that are spent on tobacco advertising, and its twin evil, beverage alcohol. We endorse a ban on all advertising of tobacco and beverage alcohol in magazines, on billboards, and on radio and television. (2001)

903.18. HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)

Since 1981, our world has been confronted with a most devastating disease known as HIV/AIDS. In view of the deep need of HIV/AIDS sufferers, Christian compassion motivates us to become accurately informed about HIV/AIDS. Christ would have us to find a way to communicate His love and concern for these sufferers in any and every country of the world. (2001)

903.19. Value of Children and Youth

The Bible commands every Christian to, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute" (Proverbs 31:8). The Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; 11:19) admonishes us to communicate God's grace to our children. Psalm 78:4 declares, "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done." Jesus affirms this in Luke

18:16, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

As a response to this biblical perspective, the Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that children are important to God and a priority in His kingdom. We believe God directed us to attend to all children—to love, nurture, protect, uphold, guide, and advocate for them. It is God's plan that we introduce children to the life of salvation and growth in grace. Salvation, holiness, and discipleship are possible and imperative in the lives of children. We recognize that children are not a means to an end, but full participants in the Body of Christ. Children are disciples in training, not disciples in waiting.

Thus, holistic and transformational ministry to children and their families in every local church will be a priority as evidenced by:

- providing effective and empowering ministries to the whole child—physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually;
- articulating Christian positions on current social justice issues that affect children;
- connecting children to the heart of the mission and ministry of the faith community;
- discipling children and training them to disciple others,
- equipping parents to nurture the spiritual formation of their children.

Since the church's educational institutions (Bible schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries) prepare students for leadership, they play a crucial role in carrying out the vision and mission of communicating the value of children. They join local churches and families in taking responsibility to prepare clergy and laity to raise the next generation of children and youth to be biblically and theologically literate and to meet the known and unforeseen challenges for evangelizing, discipling, and transforming their societies.

The Church of the Nazarene envisions an intergenerational faith community where children and youth are loved and valued, where they are ministered to and incorporated into the Church family through a wide variety of means and

methods, and where they have opportunities to minister to others in ways consistent with their ages, development, abilities, and spiritual gifts. (2009)

SPECIAL REVISION INDEX

Changes authorized by the 2009 General Assembly are indexed here.
These changes are indexed in numerical order.

INDEX OF VACANT PARAGRAPHS

MANUAL INDEX

(Numbers refer to paragraphs.)